

## Troops on outlets of Israeli-held zone

TYRE (AP) — The army moved two platoons to key outlets of an Israeli-held enclave in South Lebanon Wednesday to block infiltration of guerrillas on possible bombing missions elsewhere in Lebanon, security sources said. The push at 8:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) brought Lebanese troops closer to Israeli military lines than at any time since the outbreak of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. The security sources said the move was part of a nationwide security dragnet launched by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's government after a bomb explosion that killed nine worshippers and wounded 60 in a church north of Beirut Sunday. The government has accused Israel of masterminding the blast at Notre Dame de la Délivrance Maronite Catholic Church to deflect an international uproar over Friday's massacre in Hebron. The sources said one 15-man army platoon set up a fixed checkpoint about one kilometre north of the Hammra crossing in the western sector of Israel's self-designated "security zone." A similar platoon dug in about three kilometres from the Beit Yehon crossing in the enclave's central sector, the sources said.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

## Peres lauds Arafat, sparks uproar

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres caused a furor in parliament on Wednesday when he lauded Yasser Arafat as an unfairly maligned peace partner who is risking his life in negotiating with Israel. "Attack Arafat all you want," Mr. Peres told right-wing legislators. "I sat days and nights across from him... there is a difference when you describe Arafat through hearsay and images and when you see this man, whose life is in danger." Over loud protests, an emotional Peres continued: "His life is in danger because he decided to end the killing." Hardline Palestinian groups have threatened to assassinate Mr. Arafat for pursuing peace with the Jewish state. Yehoshua Matza of the right-wing Likud shouted to Mr. Peres: "You should be ashamed and condemned. You are sorry for him?" Mr. Peres shot back: "There were Jews who also were involved in terror (and) I don't judge them by their past. I want Arafat to be a partner who can lead his people to peace. We need to help this partner. We must listen to their needs." Mr. Peres' support for the man — who until the Sept. 13 agreement was signed was almost universally maligned in Israel — was unusual.

Volume 18 Number 5553

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 3-4, 1994, RAMADAN 21-22, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

## King hosts iftar for tribal leaders

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday hosted at Basman Palace an iftar in honour of Jordanian tribal leaders. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raif Ben Zeid, the King's Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisors and senior Royal Court officials. The King and the audience performed Maghreb prayers together.

## Jordan will not screen Schindler

AMMAN (R) — Jordan may not allow cinemas to screen the film "Schindler's List" in the tense atmosphere created by the Hebron massacre, officials said Wednesday. But pirate copies of the new movie, directed by American Steven Spielberg — a smash hit around the world — are already available at video shops in Amman. Schindler, a German businessman motivated by altruism, self-interest or both depending on one's point of view, saved 1,200 Jewish factory workers from death in World War II. "Until now, we have not received any request from any movie house to stage it here," said a member of Jordan's committee that authorises the screening of new films. "But if it is totally designed to show sympathy to the Jews, we will not allow it in because of the current situation after the Hebron massacre," he said. "How can we show sympathy to the Jews if the Jews are not showing any sympathy to the Arabs," he asked.

## Arafat appeals to Hamas to unite

AMMAN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has appealed to Hamas, his organisation's main rival, to join in a campaign to disarm Jewish settlers and solve the settlements issue with Israel after the Hebron massacre. He made his appeal in a letter to the Islamic Resistance Movement's head, Moussa Abu Marzouk, to end longstanding divisions. Hamas gave Reuters a copy of the letter. "It's the hour of unity and solidarity and uniting of ranks and not difference and division," Mr. Arafat said, responding to a call by Mr. Abu Marzouk for Mr. Arafat to halt peace talks with the Jewish state. "This unity is most needed when we are fighting one of our fiercest battles to find a radical and comprehensive solution to the settlements and the disarming of settlers and securing international protection to our people," Mr. Arafat said. The Hamas leader had told Mr. Arafat he was ready to cooperate fully with you if you wash your hands of the surrender talks... and declare that resistance alone is the only path to regain Palestine." Mr. Abu Marzouk sent his letter to Mr. Arafat after last Friday's Hebron massacre.

## Egyptian students continue protests

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police fired teargas at students protesting for a fifth day on Wednesday against Friday's massacre in Hebron, witnesses said. They said police acted after about 800 students at Ain Shams University broke open the university gate and poured into the street condemning the killing and shouting "Palestine is Arab." Police then climbed onto a building overlooking the campus and fired more teargas at students who threw rocks in return. At least 10 police trucks were stationed outside the university and anti-riot police were on standby a few metres away, the witnesses said. There was no immediate information about any casualties.

# 2 killed in Jericho as Palestinian fury rises

### Israel disarms a few hardline settlers

JERICHO, occupied West Bank (AP) — Two Palestinian teenagers were killed by Israeli troops Wednesday as the violence triggered by the Hebron mosque massacre exploded in this normally quiet West Bank town despite Israeli efforts to curb the bloodletting. Security authorities disarmed some extremist Jewish settlers in the occupied territories and banned them from Palestinian areas.

That was a radical move for the Israelis. But it is not likely to placate Palestinians demanding the closure of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and international protection. Militant Palestinians called for revenge attacks.

One of the teenagers was killed by army gunfire in Jericho, which Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat plans to make his headquarters under a peace accord with Israel that provides for limited autonomy in the Jericho region and the Gaza Strip.

Chanting "revenge revenge" his family grabbed the body from an ambulance. They wrapped it in a Palestinian flag and carried it through the rubble-strewn streets to a cemetery for burial as hundreds of angry Arabs cried. "The start of killing the pigs has begun," the trouble flared when 400

Palestinians, waving black flags, protested the mosque killings, stoning army vehicles and a police station. Troops on rooftops opened fire at youths using slingshots.

The marchers called for Jews to be killed. One placard read: "You will not live on our land. You will not fly in our sky."

Among the score of injured was Saeb Erakat, head of the PLO's negotiating team, who was slightly wounded in the leg. A 17-year-old Palestinian was shot dead by soldiers in Hebron. Clashes erupted when the military lifted a six-day-old curfew for two hours to allow people to shop, hospital officials reported. Thirty-three Arabs were injured.

At least 13 Palestinians were wounded by gunfire in scattered stone-throwing clashes with troops in Gaza, hospitals reported. Wednesday's fatalities raised the death toll since Friday to at least 66, including at least 39 men and boys killed in the Hebron mosque Friday by a Jewish gunman.

All but three of those killed were Palestinian. More than 400 have been wounded. Officials at Tel Hashomer hospital near Tel Aviv said an eight-year-old Gaza girl shot in the head by troops Feb. 2 — three weeks before the mosque

massacre — died of her wounds Wednesday.

The Gaza-based Hamas movement called for all out revenge, heightening Israeli unease amid military warnings that Arab reprisal attacks are likely.

The government put its embassies and citizens abroad on alert. Mr. Rabin's adviser, Yigal Pressler, urged Israelis with gun permits to carry their weapons at all times.

Hamas called for a "holy liberation war" against Israel and exhorted the one million Arabs living in Israel to take revenge for the Feb. 25 massacre.

"We call on our brothers" in Israel to "avenge the ugly massacre and let the gun and machine-gun speak. Let the 25th of every month be a day of escalation on which Israeli targets are attacked everywhere," Hamas said in leaflets distributed Wednesday.

It appealed to the two million Palestinians in the occupied territories to wage "an armed revolution that can reach Israel buses and Israeli-populated areas inside Israel because our blood is not cheaper than theirs."

Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction in Hebron issued leaflets saying its activists will "resume attacks against the Zionist enemy with all their strength."

# Clinton calls on Palestinians not to abandon peace talks

### Arafat sends Shaath to U.S. amid Israeli, PLO criticism of Washington

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton urged Palestinians on Wednesday not to abandon Middle East peace talks over the Hebron massacre, saying to reject negotiations would "hand a victory to the extremists."

Mr. Clinton told reporters he believes the Palestinians want to rein the talks and added, "I'm not resigned to the fact that it won't happen."

Mr. Clinton said Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat had said he would join the talks in Washington but that he is under much pressure at home not to do so.

"The only thing I would say to the Palestinians who are pressuring Mr. Arafat not to resume talks is that that is the surest way to hand a victory to the madman who killed all the Palestinians in the mosque."

Why should they do something that would hand a victory to the extremists on both sides?" he said.

Last week's massacre in Hebron by a gun-wielding Jewish extremist has stalled the Middle East peace process, and sparked clashes in the Israeli-occupied territories. Mr. Arafat told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Tuesday that an international force was needed to protect Palestinians and in the occupied territories.

Mr. Clinton said he had spoken to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and hoped to talk to King Hussein later Wednesday to discuss ways to get the talks going again.

A Palestinian negotiator sent to Washington by Mr. Arafat will press new Palestinian demands before agreeing to reopen negotiations with

Israel, Clinton administration sources said.

The PLO envoy, Nabil Shaath, headed the PLO delegation in past rounds in Egypt. He was due in Washington in time for a meeting with Warren Christopher before the secretary of state departs on a trip to Asia on Friday.

The talks are for implementing a previous agreement by Israel to let Palestinians govern themselves in the Israeli-occupied territories.

But the Palestinians want the issue of Jewish settlements placed on the agenda. Palestinians want the 130,000 Jewish settlers in Gaza and the West Bank removed.

The Palestinians also want Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to take tougher actions

(Continued on page 10)

# House votes 59-3 against lifting Kreisha's immunity

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deputy Toujan Faisal Wednesday lost her bid to strip fellow lawmaker Jamal Kreisha of his parliamentary immunity but gave no indication that she would drop her legal charges against him.

In a widely expected decision, 59 out of 62 deputies present supported the Judiciary Committee's recommendation to reject Ms. Faisal's request to lift Mr. Kreisha's immunity after a limited discussion.

Only Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies Bassam Omoush and Mohammad Owaideh did not raise their hands when the vote was taken on the committee's recommendation. Many leftist deputies who in the past showed sympathy with Ms. Faisal left the session before Speaker Taher Al Masri called the vote.

Parliamentary sources told the Jordan Times that Ms. Faisal had antagonised most of her colleagues when she

attacked them during a special session held in attempt to solve the dispute between her and Mr. Kreisha. She turned down all attempts to resolve the conflict.

Ms. Faisal had said she would proceed with her legal action against Mr. Kreisha for allegedly insulting her and her Circassian community and hitting her with a hole-puncher during a meeting of a House panel.

The Judiciary Committee rejected the court request to strip Mr. Kreisha of his immunity because never in the history of the parliamentary life of Jordan had "a deputy sued his colleague and asked that immunity be lifted from him" as a result of disputes that began in the House.

"Disputes erupt among deputies but a deputy suing another is unprecedented" since parliamentary life began in Jordan in 1928, the committee said.

The committee also called the "House's need for all its members" to finish its duty as a

reason for turning down Ms. Faisal's request.

In what some deputies described as a defiant remark to the House before the vote was taken, Ms. Faisal said the House should uphold the law regardless of habits and should change "these habits if they are bad."

"I had hoped that the House would make this a precedent so that its performance will become civilised," said Ms. Faisal, adding that it was "improper" for the House to apply the law to her case.

Ms. Faisal said her bid to lift the immunity from Mr. Kreisha was politically motivated because she could have waited till the end of this session of the House to pursue her charges. Deputies do not enjoy immunity when the House is not in session.

"It was a test for the House in front of our electorate," she said. She said her bid was also a test for deputies' commitment to democracy.

(Continued from page 2)



The body of 16-year-old Osman Barhan lies across the back seat of a car after he was shot and killed Wednesday by Israeli soldiers (AFP photo)

# Jordan backs call for dismantling settlements, disarming settlers

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan believes that the only way to ensure the protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories is through the removal of the settlements in the occupied territories, especially in high-tension areas such as Hebron and Jerusalem, a senior official told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

The Kingdom also wants to see a more active role for the United Nations in the Middle East peace negotiations as well as in guaranteeing the protection of Palestinian citizens.

"Jordan's declared position is that Palestinians in the occupied territories have to be protected," said the official, who asked he remain anonymous.

Jordan, along with its Arab partners to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, pulled out of the Washington-based bilateral talks early in protest against the massacre of 60 worshippers in Hebron last week.

The PLO has placed several conditions on the resumption

of negotiations, including the dismantling of settlements especially in Hebron and the Gaza Strip, move the issue of settlements from final-status negotiations to the current negotiations, disarm settlers and increase the number of Palestinian policemen.

Israel has already freed around 1,000 Palestinian detainees and announced it was ready to disarm 100 settlers. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, according to reports, was willing to accept international observers to supervise the transfer of power from Israel to Palestinians, possibly dismantle particularly troublesome settlements, crack down on radical Jewish settlers and increase the size of the Palestinian police forces.

"We believe that the best security arrangements are that settlements are dismantled especially in Jerusalem and Hebron, the official said. He said that these two areas are especially important because of their historic value and the close contact between fundamentalist settlers and

Palestinian residents in those areas."

"Jordan also calls for U.N. participation in negotiations," the official said.

But most importantly, the official said the issue of settlements should be moved forward to the current Arab-Israeli negotiations instead of relegating the sensitive debate to final-status negotiations.

"Jordan always believed that the delaying of this issue will have dangerous ramifications," the official said. The official said that the head of the PLO political department, Farouk Khaddoumi, will not visit Amman as previously scheduled and has instead gone to New York to discuss the proposed U.N. resolution on the Hebron massacre.

U.S. and Palestinian diplomats had been holding negotiations at the U.N. headquarters in New York to work out disagreements on wording and reach a final draft for a U.N. Security resolution condemning the Hebron massacre.

# Qadhafi: It's peace or else

CAIRO (AP) — Colonel Muammar Qadhafi announced Wednesday that Libya will wage holy war on any belligerent in the world's hot spots who fail to obey a Libyan delegation's call for peace.

The Libyan leader talked to delegation members who include mosque preachers, teachers of the Koran and professors of Islamic studies and the Arabic language.

As reported by JANA, the Libyan news agency, he told them they will go to Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and northern Iraq to advise the Kurds.

JANA said Colonel Qadhafi told the delegation that "the Great Jamahiriya, which raises the banner of Islam, ... cannot face these dangerous Islamic issues like any succumbing country that receives orders from Paris, London, Washington and Tel Aviv."

Monitored in Cairo, JANA reported that the delegation will leave from these "hot Islamic areas" to tranquilize the warring factions there.

The agency said Col. Qadhafi told them: "Libya will fight the party that will not stop the war, according to the Koran's dictates."

JANA quoted a verse from the Koran calling on the faithful to make peace between fighting believers and to punish the one who violates the peace.

Libya celebrated Wednesday the 17th anniversary of the "power of the people and the birth of the first Jamahiriya." Since April 15, 1992, Libya has been under U.N. air, arms and diplomatic sanctions pushed through by the United States, Britain and France.

# Greek foreign minister arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Greek Foreign Minister Carlos Papoulias arrived here late Wednesday on a two-day visit during which he is expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein and other officials for talks on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations.

In arrival comments, Mr. Papoulias, who occupies the rotating presidency of the European Union (EU) Council of Ministers said he was carrying a message from Greek Prime Minister George Papandreu to King Hussein.

Mr. Papoulias, who arrived here from Tunis after talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, is on a Middle East

visit aimed at extending European support for efforts to break the logjam in Arab-Israeli peace talks following Friday's massacre in Hebron.

The Greek minister said his discussions here would also cover means to boost Jordanian-Greek relations. He said Athens was keen to developing ties at the highest levels.

EU-Jordanian relations will also be covered, including the Kingdom's bid to enhance cooperation with the EU, he added.

The minister described as regrettable the Hebron massacre and said that Greece and Jordan would exert all efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

# Prince Hassan urges youth to serve national objectives

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has urged members of the Arab Youth Forum (AYF) to translate the slogans of the Great Arab Revolt into action.

"Slogans are not enough. The Youth should set a good example in their behaviour and their work and serve as a model for others in serving their nation," Prince Hassan stressed.

"This can be done through field work and through contributions in various fields," Prince Hassan said at a meeting Tuesday with AYF members held after an iftar.

"We want the AYF to contribute towards utilising the potential power of the country's youth and to plant the seeds of hope in the hearts of people, urging them to get involved in practical programmes benefiting their nation," added the Crown Prince.

"When the AYF was founded in 1982, I stressed that its aim was to help build up a better future for the Jordanian people and the Arab Nation," Prince Hassan recalled.

"We do not want the AYF to serve as a lobby seeking favouritism for its members to attain positions, but rather to serve as a workshop," with the youth continuously working to serve national interest," said Prince Hassan.

By undertaking the real tasks, the AYF will highlight Jordan's real role and reflect its good image to the outside world at a time when the country enjoys an atmosphere of freedom, human rights political pluralism and democracy, he said.

He urged the youth to deal with local issues and embark on practical programmes to find solutions for these problems.

Present at the iftar and the lecture were Cabinet members, Presidents of Jordanian Universities and other officials.

# Government defends RJ, says finances not the only parameter

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Transport Adeb Halasa on Wednesday strongly defended the performance of Royal Jordanian, the state-owned national carrier which is under criticism from some members of Parliament, and said the government was pursuing a carefully-studied plan to privatise the airline.

Presenting a detailed report giving facts and figures on the airline's situation to the Lower House of Parliament in response to a demand by 16 deputies, Mr. Halasa said the critical issue facing the government was how to maintain the status of RJ as the national carrier symbolising Jordan while ensuring that it is a commercially viable entity, away from posing a financial burden on the treasury.

The House referred the minister's report to a proposed special committee which will study it and present its recommendations to the lawmakers.

The committee will be formed by the permanent office of Parliament in consultations with the heads of the various political blocs in the House. No time frame was mentioned for the completion of the proposed panel's work.

In his report, Mr. Halasa said determining the future of the airline based on figures related to its assets and liabilities was not the right approach since the national carrier was not just a commercial enterprise whose future should be decided upon by its economic performance.

He said the government was obliged to meet the liabilities of the airline, which represents Jordan, its people and the government to the outside world.

The biggest problem faced by the airline is its debts, he said. The airline is making a net operational profit, but the cost of servicing its debts of JD 579 million was plunging it into the red.

The debts include outstanding payments to a Paris-based consortium of banks which financed the airline's lease/purchase of aircraft in the late 1980s.

The airline owes JD 69 million to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Corporation, JD 16 million to the Social Security Corporation and JD 112 million to local banks, he said.

The debts were accumulated over the years and part of the airline's dues, including payment for the purchase of the planes, were paid in mid-1980s when it sold its aircraft for \$278 million.

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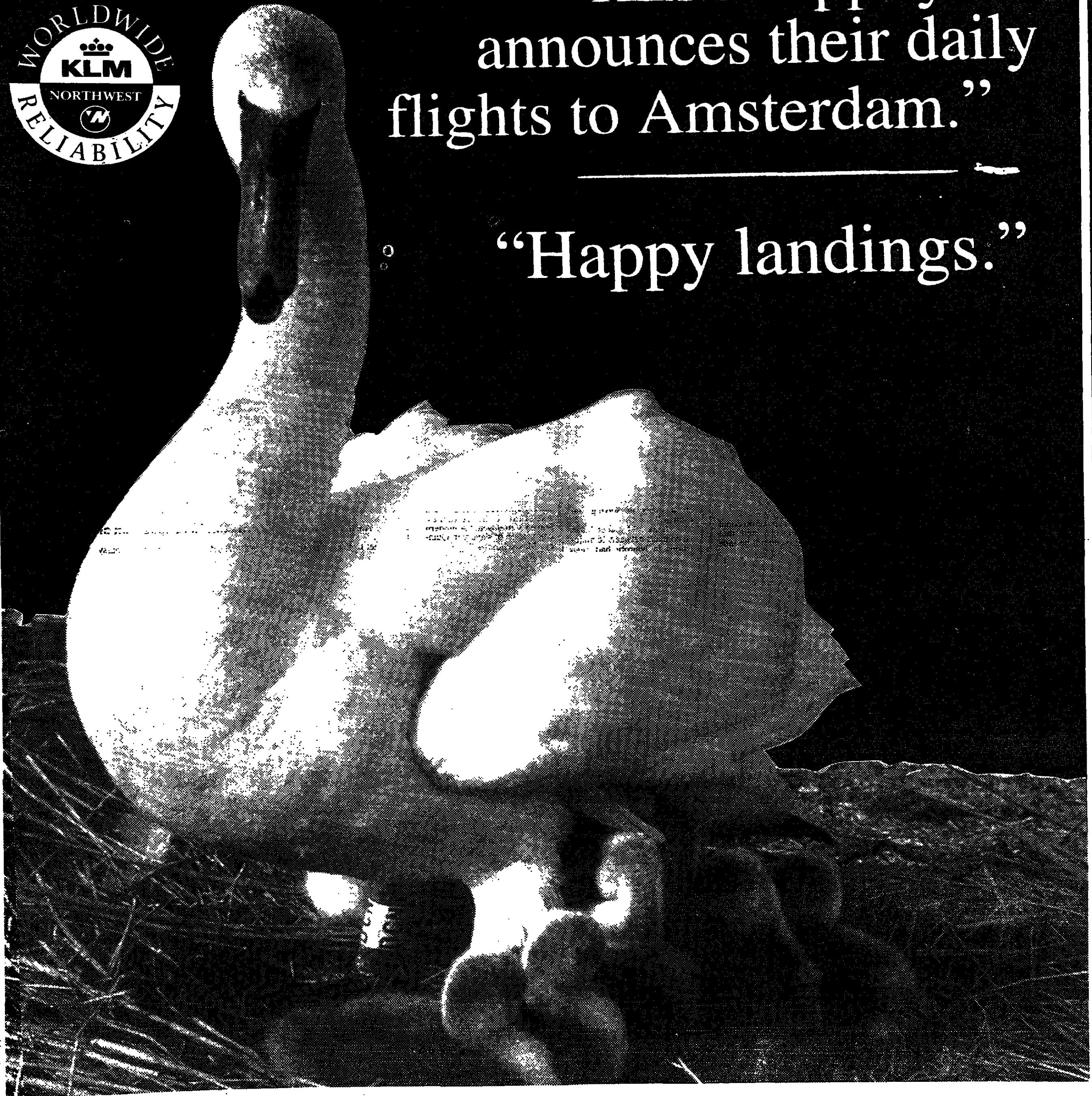






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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1973

Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:  
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Fax: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

### Diplomacy of sorts

THE ARAB lives lost in the Hebron massacre may have not gone in vain if the flurry of diplomatic activity that followed will succeed in providing effective protection to the Palestinians on top of accelerating the implementation of the PLO-Israel accord. The Rabin government has yet to yield to Arab and international pressures calling for putting in place an international regime for protecting Arabs under occupation from the kind of genocide that occurred at the Ibrahimi Mosque last Friday. The release of 500 or so Palestinian prisoners has impressed neither the Arab side nor the international community but could be seen as a small step towards adopting more meaningful confidence-building measures by the Israelis. The U.N. Security Council is still struggling to formulate a resolution acceptable to both sides and may succeed in the end to adopt a decision that would satisfy the minimum security needs of the Palestinians.

The best news, however, could be that the Rabin government may now be willing to cut into half the period for the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. If this turns out to be the case, then there is room for optimism provided that the new measure is also accompanied by moves to provide safety for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The flurry of international and regional activities in the aftermath of the massacre, is in itself necessary. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been on the line contacting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat about how to contain the damage that was sustained by the Hebron "terrorist" act. A Russian emissary has been in contact with the PLO leadership in Tunis, as well as with the Israeli government in a bid to preserve the momentum of the peace effort. The European Community has likewise lost no time in joining forces with others in order to save the peace process, and even give it a new momentum.

It seems that all parties have learned a big lesson from the recent spilling of blood in the occupied territories and are now pooling their resources to replace the cycle of violence with constructive moves towards peace.

But this cannot be done without moving swiftly and effectively in the direction of providing true security to the Palestinians during the interim period. By upgrading the priority consideration of the settlement issue, the stage could also be set for a real advance in the critical peace talks. Hopefully, Israel and its allies could be forthcoming on these legitimate concerns and by so doing they would make the cause of moderation much more tenable for all of us. The U.S., in particular, has to make up for its failure to act properly in reaction to the massacre. Washington's pathetic response to the need for security for Palestinians, coupled with President Clinton's weak-kneed reaction to an otherwise grossly abhorrent terrorist attack, makes it necessary for the Americans to show greater statesmanship now. They will not be able to do that if the Israeli army itself upstages them in calls to get Jewish settlers off Palestinians' back.

#### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN THE face of the continued massacres and atrocities against the Palestinian people, the majority of nations have demanded that the U.N. Security Council ensure protection for the oppressed people, said Tareq Masarweh in Al Rai Arabic daily Wednesday. But he said such demand was rebuffed thanks to the United States and the U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, who suggested sending civilian observers to the occupied lands. Of course, said the writer, observers can by no means ensure protection for the Palestinian people, and for this reason the Israeli government has given its consent to the presence of observer. Thus we see that the massacre in Hebron and the continued atrocities committed by the Israeli troops and settlers in Palestine have received an ignominious reaction on the part of the world community and the U.N. organisation, said the writer. He said that the U.N. observers will only be stationed in Jericho and Gaza and no way can they be close to the holy shrines in Hebron or in Jerusalem.

Washington does not want an open session for the Security Council in order to expose its biased stand. It rather seeks a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, he added. The writer said that if the U.N. peacekeeping forces could do nothing in Bosnia, no one expects mere observers to provide protection to the Palestinian civilians.

A COLUMNIST in Al Rai daily said that the Arab countries did well in suspending the Arab-Israeli talks to support the PLO's similar decision in protest against the massacres and to back demands for protection for the Palestinian people. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the Arabs are not closing the door in the face of talks to regain control of their usurped lands. But suspension of the negotiations was necessary to give the Arab leaders time to take stock of the situation and coordinate their position vis-a-vis the news developments. What the Arab masses expect now is a strong collective Arab stand in the face of Israeli settlement programmes and a firm stand with regard to the implementation of the U.N. resolutions, said the writer.

## The security dimension of the Hebron massacre

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

WITH RESPECT to the Hebron Massacre, there is much for the journalist, the political analyst, the sociologist, the psychologist, the poet and the man in the street to reflect upon. Much can be said about the feelings of those dawn worshippers at the moment of the merciless slaughter and demise — the helplessness they must have felt, the shock, the fear, the rage — about the cruel memory the survivors have to live with. Much can also be said about the sense of horror, of impotence, of disgust and of hatred about Baruch Goldstein's carefully planned and spitefully executed bloody act — the timing, the exact place where he stood when he opened fire and the type of weapons he used; about Israel's convenient use of linguistic labels — a Palestinian committing an act of violence, even in self-defence, is a "terrorist", an Israeli, on the other hand, is (at worst) "insane". Much can be said about Israel's sovereignty over the holy places (including Jerusalem), whether or not it is justified in such claims and qualified to play the role of the protector of the three faiths in the many Palestinian holy cities; about the extremely selfish, rude, provocative, dangerous, and illegal presence of settlers in the occupied territories; about the unjustified slowness of the peace process which, had it been more speedily and less intransigently implemented on the part of Israel, could have averted the Al Ibrahimi mosque tragedy and the ones committed daily before and after the massacre; about the new possibilities available to the Arab and Palestinian negotiators; etc.

I wish to limit my discussion here, however, to one dimension of the chilling massacre, namely the question of Palestinian and Israeli security.

From the very beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict, much more attention has been paid to Israel's security than to that of the Palestinian people or the Arabs more generally. We all understand, of course, the root causes of such unfair (and often tragic) imbalance. Up until Israel's ruthless invasion of Lebanon in 1982, an invasion which inflicted heavy losses and a great deal of suffering on Lebanese civilians and Palestinian refugees, Israel had remarkably succeeded in convincing the Western world of the validity of its most often exaggerated and even fanciful security claims. The image, up until that particular event and the intifada, was that Israel was a poor, helpless (or heroic) democracy living in the middle of hostile, more powerful countries. Its security ought to be of paramount importance. A quick look at the key speeches delivered by nearly all U.S. presidents or presidential candidates in the said era, for example, reveals an excessive concern with Israel's security (by contrast, little or nothing is said about Palestinian or Arab security).

Israel, of course, made maximum use of such an extremely favourable situation, amassing all kinds of sophisticated weapons (including weapons of mass destruction), occupying any land it saw fit (i.e. southern Lebanon), planting settlements throughout the territories it occupied in 1967, and (naturally) killing Palestinians and Arabs inside and outside the occupied territories on an almost daily basis — all under the pretext of security.

Though the 1982 invasion and the intifada revealed not only the truth about Israel's military status and might but also the falsehood of many of its security claims, Israel continued nonetheless to place great emphasis on its "security." In fact it

**"Inevitably, peace is the only guarantee of security, for both the Israelis and the Palestinians. But many of us worry even after the establishment of peace, for two main reasons. First, while the vast majority of the Palestinians are ready for peace with Israel, many Israelis (the likes of Goldstein) are not."**

is such claims that have hindered, at times even crippled and obstructed, the momentum of the peace process since Madrid — unjustifiably. One could indeed argue that the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have, since the Sept. 13 agreement, been stuck on almost all significant issues because of the infamous question of Israel's "security": the size of the Jericho area, the settlements in Gaza and the border crossings.

The point here is not that Israel's security is not important. Rather, it is that Israel's image of its security and the unfair demands it has attempted and is attempting to impose are: a) blown way out of proportion and, more crucially, b) immensely one-sided. Why do we not hear about Palestinian security? Who is more secure, we should ask, the Israelis or the Palestinians? Baruch Goldstein's crime and the daily crimes committed by the Israeli soldiers before and since provide an apt answer to the question. The intifada has come to remind people in the whole world, those who know the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict and those who do not, that the Palestinians are essentially peace-loving people, that they are remarkably civilised in dealing with the repressive measures of a ruthless occupier, that the negative image Israel has tried (at times successfully) to perpetuate about them as "terrorists" and "uncivilised" is false. The stones they throw at armoured vehicles and heavily armed soldiers are symbolic, signifying

their rejection of occupation and of Israeli oppression. Palestinian acts of violence since the intifada have been extremely limited and isolated, and in no way compare with Baruch Goldstein's.

The bloody acts of Goldstein (the supposedly civilised Ivy League graduate, of Columbia University, and the supposed life-saviour, he is a physician) and of the Israeli soldiers in the various Palestinian towns and cities come to remind us of the utter vulnerability of the Palestinians, of their almost total lack of security. Any fanatical Israeli terrorist (settler or no settler, "extreme" or not "extreme," to use Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's own terms) can kill any Palestinian anytime anywhere, as easily as Baruch has.

We worry about the security and safety of Palestinians under occupation, and we do not trust the Israeli army, under whose knowledge the massacre was committed, to protect them. The immediate disarming of the settlers, the "extreme" and the not so extreme, is a must. The dismantling of the settlements, which were established under the false pretext of security, is ultimately inevitable, for the sake of Palestinian security first and foremost, to which Israel and the international community ought to lend a listening ear from now on. Otherwise, more disasters are likely to happen. The words of the Rabbi at Goldstein's supposed funeral, "One million Arabs are not worth a Jewish fingernail," are already a warning.

Inevitably, peace is the only guarantee of security, for both the Israelis and the Palestinians. But many of us worry even after the establishment of peace, for two main reasons. First, while the vast majority of the Palestinians are ready for peace with Israel, many Israelis (the likes of Goldstein) are not. Israel ought to educate and re-educate its citizens about the Palestinians and the Arabs; it must act now to eliminate many of the misconceptions and the prejudices it planted in the minds of its people vis-a-vis Palestinians and Arabs.

Secondly, Israel, we ought to remind, possesses many kinds of weapons of mass destruction: biological, chemical, atomic, and nuclear. Such weapons pose a double threat: a) they can anytime pollute and poison our environment and b) they may at any time, even after the establishment of peace, be used against us. Who is to ensure our safety and security?

Like Iraq and North Korea, Israel must soon be searched; all its weapons of mass destruction be eliminated, if we want a safer, more secure Middle East, and if the Arabs and Israelis are to live in true peace.

The ball is in the court of our negotiators now, in the court of the international community (particularly the USA), and in the court of Israel. We demand true security and peace.

The writer is a professor of American literature at Yarmouk University. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

By Robert Mahoney  
Reuters

#### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

Even before the Hebron massacre, Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat was in trouble with his own people.

Youths in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip had begun defacing his image on wall paintings and posters put up triumphantly last September to mark the signing of a historic Palestinian self-rule deal with Israel.

Now the slaughter of more than 60 Palestinians by a Jewish settler has crystallised opposition to that accord for many ordinary Palestinians, ever fearful of the 120,000 settlers in their midst.

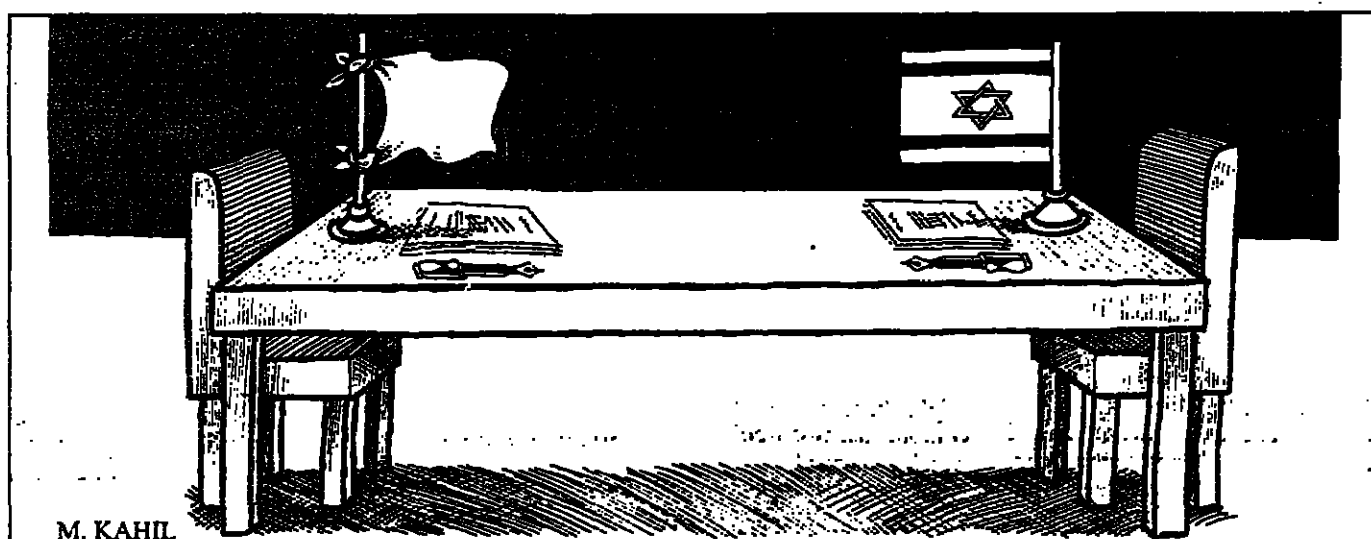
It has also dented the credibility of Mr. Arafat and the leadership of his Fateh faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), according to Fateh members themselves.

"In Gaza the PLO is in a corner," said Freih Abu Medain, a Fateh member close to Arafat.

"The peace process has totally lost credibility, and the leadership have lost credibility now that they are facing the people," he told Reuters.

Faisal Al Hussein, Mr. Arafat's senior aide in the West Bank, was jeered when he visited Jerusalem's Mokassed Hospital to see victims of last Friday's massacre.

Support for the accord be-



### Slaughter pushes Arafat into corner

gan to wane last December when differences over security delayed the transfer of authority and an Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

The mosque massacre has accelerated the erosion, forcing Mr. Arafat to insist on international protection for Palestinians and the disarming of settlers.

He knows that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will never agree to compromise Israeli "sovereignty" by allowing a "foreign" military force to operate in the occupied lands. Nor will Mr. Rabin risk a civil war among Jews by forcing large numbers of settlers off land they believe is God-given.

Yet Mr. Arafat has to move. He is under pressure from all sides. His own people want the Israeli army and settlers off their backs and an improvement in living conditions. Many who believed the Norwegian-brokered self-rule deal would be that path to peace now doubt it.

The United States, Israel's chief ally, is committed to push through the Oslo accord and is trying to nudge Mr. Arafat in to an accommodation with the Jewish state.

Arab states too, despite public reticence, see peace with Israel as being in their interest and are leaning on the PLO

chief, diplomats say.

The massacre has robbed Mr. Arafat of time and manoeuvrability. It has further delayed his arrival in Jericho and Gaza, where he needed to set up a Palestinian police force quickly to defuse tension and keep the lid on dissent.

It has also brought to the top of the agenda thorny issues such as settlement which both Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin planned to tackle in the second phase of the self-rule deal.

"People feel insecure. Rabin's word that Israel will take care of the settlers is no longer enough," said a Fateh official. "We have to get a commitment to discuss settle-

ments now."

The PLO leadership fear that support could shift further to militant groups like Hamas if it carries out its vow to avenge the Hebron killings.

"The massacre has revealed great defects in the Oslo agreement," Ghassan Al Khatib, a former Palestinian peace negotiator said. "Arafat is compelled to retreat from some aspects of the agreement in order to keep what is left of popular support both for the accord and the PLO itself," he told Reuters.

Hence the strong rhetoric and tough demands coming from PLO headquarters in

Tunis which has dismissed Mr. Rabin's crackdown on extremist settlers as empty and hollow.

Mr. Arafat hopes this stance will calm anger and allay security fears in the West Bank and Gaza while behind the bluster he can finesse a way out with U.S. mediation.

Mr. Arafat has only suspended not broken off peace talks. He believes Mr. Rabin's political future in bound up almost as much as his own with the peace process.

PLO officials hope he can negotiate something stronger than the vague "interim agreement" which Mr. Rabin has agreed to allow in Gaza and Jericho. But they acknowledge Palestinians are unlikely to get an armed protection force.

Mr. Arafat also needs concessions on settlements. PLO officials hope for the removal of "provocative" enclaves such as those in the heart of Hebron, a city of 110,000 Arabs. They also want the dismantling of Netzarim settlement, an isolated enclave south of Gaza City.

PLO officials believe the Palestinian-Israeli talks will eventually resume in Washington but they insist negotiators will have to return with concrete gains.

"This massacre is just an alarm to show what could come if settlements are not dealt with," Mr. Abu Medain said. "The PLO is in the corner."

## Massacre paints new colour to political landscape

By G. H. Jansen

As was only to be expected, the fall-out, the consequence, of the Hebron mosque massacre are many and varied. The most significant of these are psychological, that is attitudes and emotions.

The most important attitudinal change is that the spell of the omnipotence of the One World Power, the U.S., and, in the Middle East, the U.S.-Israel has been broken. For the last three or four years whatever the U.S. "riding high" wanted the U.S. got. The break came on Feb. 25 when three Arab governments, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, walked out of talks with Israel in Washington. This was a slap in the face of U.S. President Bill Clinton because on Feb. 25, within hours of the massacre, he tried to rush the Arabs into carrying on "business as usual" by inviting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to send their negotiators to Washington, possibly by March 2, or even earlier.

According to Mr. Clinton, both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat said "yes" at the time. But the Arab governments, facing the blazing hatred and anger of their people, said "no" and left Washington despite American pleas not to leave and

not to do anything precipitate; even using the specious argument that breaking off the negotiations, even temporarily, was what the enemies of the peace process, Jew and Arab, wanted.

What put steel into the hitherto wobbly spines of the Arab governments was not only fear of the wrath of their people but that this time the Clinton administration's bias in favour of Israel was altogether too blatant. Particularly so in the U.N. Security Council where, first, the U.S. tried to delay a meeting, then suggested that the council issue only a statement and not a resolution and then tried to water down the terms of the resolution.

By abandoning any pretence that it was an honest broker between Arabs and Israelis in the peace process, the U.S. made it easier even for Arab governments to say "no". And having done that once, they could do it again. The emotional climate in the politics of West Asia has undergone a basic change: in their mind-set the Arabs are no longer in America's pocket, to be taken for granted.

The same breaking of a spell of subservience has taken place within the PLO, where it seemed as if the reformers could never do anything to curb the one-

man, arbitrary rule of Yasser Arafat. Thus, soon after the reformers had extracted from him a promise to consult the PLO Executive Committee before taking decisions, he immediately accepted Mr. Clinton's invitation without consulting anyone. It is the PLO, through its Executive Committee, that has now publicly humbled Mr. Arafat by saying that no PLO representatives will be going to Washington for talks with Israel, for the time being. Only a special envoy to talk, not to the Israelis, but to the Americans, to work out what the Americans could get the Israelis to do before negotiations can resume. As a result of Hebron, the PLO could be a much more democratic body.

Western unity in the Security Council, between the U.S., U.K. and France, has been broken as a result of the blatant pro-Israel bias of the U.S. over Hebron. France tabled a separate resolution of its own calling for better protection for Palestinian civilians. As a result of Hebron, the Security Council, perhaps, could behave in a more equitable manner if France continues to take its own stand.

Any diminution in the prestige and power of the One World Power in this area is

bad for its local surrogates, like Egypt and Saudi Arabia, because Egypt in particular has been pushed by the U.S. into playing a prominent role in the PLO-Israeli talks, always urging PLO to make concessions. These surrogates will now have to play more cautious and less prominent roles.

The Hebron massacre will, inevitably, have an important impact on Israel-Palestinian "peace" negotiations. While some of the fellow settlers of Baruch Goldstein in Kiryat Arba wish to believe he is a hero, he has done the settlers a singular disservice because settlers and settlements cannot but be discussed in the next round of negotiations as is being demanded by the Palestinians; according to the Oslo accords, these issues were supposed to come up only after the interim period of five years.

Apart from these intangible changes in feelings and attitudes, the Hebron massacre has produced a dramatic, overt, visible change: the widespread popular anger it caused has rekindled the flames of the intifada. And restarted it in revitalised form because the rioting pulled in places and people who had not been involved in the earlier stages of intifada which began in

1987. Thus, there were violent riots and killings in the places like Nazareth and Jaffa and the Negev, in Israel "proper": something which had never happened on such a scale before. Furthermore, the bedouin tribesmen of the Israeli Nagav, so subdued that they are used by the Israeli army, also rose up, perhaps out of sympathy with Hebron, perhaps out of revenge for the theft by Israel of their tribal lands. As a result of Hebron, bitter, open anti-Israeli feeling is now more widespread than ever before both in the occupied territories and among Palestinians in Israel itself.

It was bad enough that a Jewish zealot should shoot scores of Muslims in the back while they were praying in a mosque, but what is much worse is that his fellow-zealots in his settlement of Kiryat Arba and elsewhere should show no remorse after the killing. Quite the contrary. The U.S.-born doctor Baruch Goldstein has been enigmatised as a "hero", a "martyr", who "carried out one of God's commandments" (but not of course the commandment saying: "Thou shalt not kill"). In short, thanks to Hebron, the whole world has been presented with the ugly, the hideous, face of Zionism:

that is it a brutal racist creed. The Hebron massacre has had its effect on the internal political scene within Israel. It has shown Mr. Rabin, who has elected on the ticket of making peace with the Palestinians, as a stubborn, stiff-necked, old-fashioned Zionist saying "no" to disarming settlers, except a chosen few, "no" to withdrawing settlements, except a chosen few, and "no" to foreign supervisory force.

Only a "foreign presence" — a "temporary" one, but a foreign presence, however temporary — will put Israel into a separate category of state, one which has to be supervised. All this puts strains on the coalition between Mr. Rabin's Labour Party and its partner Meretz, liberal and left wing.

It also puts a strain on the relations between the government and the army which thinks that not enough has been done to curb militant settlers. After all, it is the army that has to shed blood to counter disturbances caused by the actions of the settlers.

In all, the Hebron massacre can already be seen to be a crucial event in the recent history of this area, and it will become even more important as its consequences unfold in the future.





By Sue Baker  
Reuter

## Today's women reporters face same obstacles as 50 years ago

LONDON — Today's women reporters have made big strides towards equality in their profession but still face some of the same obstacles as the trailblazers of 50 years ago.

"Women do, more or less, have open access to any story today they enjoy the same training as men and are paid the same rate for the job their views are listened to and taken seriously and they are just as likely to be killed or wounded as a male reporter," says a new book about women reporters.

But author Anne Sebba laments: "Although it may be generally agreed that there is no longer anything in the field of news which women are not able to cover, there are still few of them at the top."

While today's women journalists are largely spared the depth of male scorn lavished on 19th century pioneers, Ms. Sebba says many still encounter the same resistance faced 50 years ago by those who tried to break into "non-traditional" female news

areas such as wars, politics, commentating or editorial writing.

Higher up the corporate ladder, the picture is even bleaker, she says in *Battling For News: The Rise Of The Woman Reporter*.

None of Britain's serious newspapers, such as the *Times* or *Daily Telegraph*, has yet appointed a woman as editor — although three popular tabloids have done so — while at the British Broadcasting Corporation only 10 per cent of senior managers are women with 18 per cent in middle management.

Things were worse, though, in the pioneer days, recounts Ms. Sebba, whose book is largely historical.

In 1881, when the aristocrat Lady Florence Dixie was asked as a stunt by the *Morning Post* to report on the Zulu wars, becoming the first British woman sent by a newspaper to cover a war, the popular press derided her as a "brainless

socialite who would have trouble keeping up with the troops."

Flora Shaw, who reported as a freelance from Gibraltar, Egypt and Belgium, became the first woman to join the permanent staff of the *Times* in 1892 — but only after writing a regular column for two years without being allowed to use her name.

Nearly 50 years on, World War II provided the spur for a new generation of women to break into front-line reporting.

But it was an uphill battle.

Clare Hollingworth of the *Daily Telegraph* scored a coup with a report about the military activity on the German-Polish border which marked the start of World War II.

According to Ms. Sebba, since Hollingworth was young, attractive and female her report was initially disbelieved by her boss in Berlin.

Another trailblazer, American Martha Gellhorn, also battled against male prejudice and professional jealousy — from her own husband, the journalist and author Ernest Hemingway.

After he arranged to have her stripped of her accreditation, she stowed away on a hospital ship and hid in a toilet to reach the Normandy beaches and become the only unauthorised reporter to cover the "D-Day" allied invasion of Europe.

Half a century later, veteran BBC television reporter Kate Adie says sexist attitudes still exist, although she admits the past 15 years have seen radical changes for women.

"Most male journalists still believe that you're flustering your eyelids and that you opened your legs to get the job or the story," Adie is quoted as saying in Ms. Sebba's book.

Adie, who made a name

for herself covering the April 1986 U.S. bombing of the Libyan capital Tripoli and the 1989 pro-democracy uprising in Beijing, told Ms. Sebba that a widely circulated story during the 1991 Gulf War that she had British troops searching for a lost pearl earring in the Saudi desert sands was untrue, apparently invented by snide colleagues. BBC Radio reporter Diana Goodman was confronted with a telling incident when in 1986 she became the first woman to run one of the organisation's foreign bureaux, in Bonn.

"So great was the assumption that the next incumbent would be a man," Ms. Sebba, a former Reuters journalist, wrote, "that the welcoming note left by her predecessor read: 'Your wife might like to know where the local shops are.'"

Ms. Sebba's book, published last month by Hodder Stoughton, makes little

attempt to analyse why women, who make up 52 per cent of journalism trainees, fail to win the top posts.

She notes that those involved in recruiting women as reporters at a senior level in the BBC find that most applicants for these jobs are still men.

"The reasons are not clear, but informal discussions have revealed that too many women are still put off by what they perceive as the cut-throat nature of the news business, which, they fear, would be incompatible with personal and domestic responsibilities," she writes.

Many women journalists would disagree. Julie Flint's response in her book review in the *Independent* on Sunday was a dismissive "oh yeah?"

"This book has a humbling tale to tell," Ms. Flint wrote. "It should perhaps have been sub-titled 'The Spread Of The Woman Reporter, for they don't rise any higher than they did half a century ago when women such as Hollingworth (and) Gellhorn... were at, and often over, the (war) front.'"

## BOOK REVIEW

### Long skirts sloshing in the mud of Fleet Street

Battling For News

By Anne Sebba  
Hodder & Stoughton, £18.99

It is 1861. For the past two years Miss Wrenford, the sister of the *Times* correspondent in Italy, has successfully filled in for her bedridden brother. But now she is requesting to be given assignments in her own right. The paper's manager replies: "My Dear Madam, our letter did not find me on duty and my colleague who was acting in my absence very wisely skirted the impossibility of saying 'no' to a lady — for that is what I am obliged to say, though I do not doubt your ability to do well what you propose."

Three decades later, Flora Shaw presents herself to the same newspaper. She is supremely capable of providing much needed "colonial stories," but hiring a woman remains forbidden. It is finally agreed that she can write a fortnightly column, but unsigned. No one is allowed to admit that what appears in print comes from the hand of a woman. Moreover, Shaw is provided with facilities, not even a desk. Undeterred, this doughty Victorian lady plunks herself down on the office floor to pen her copy.

In her informative book, Anne Sebba chronicles the last century and a half of women trying to make it in a particularly unyielding male preserve — so unyielding that certain ineluctable attitudes linger to the present day. The bulk of the volume is heavily laced with anecdotes, many of which will no doubt surprise its readers. The unsigned report, for example, announcing to the world the outbreak of war in Europe, in 1939, was filed by Britain's Clare Hollingworth; only 27 years old at the time, she actually landed the scoop while in the course of pursuing her very first professional assignment.

And then there is America's intrepid Marguerite Higgins, of the *Herald Tribune*. In 1944 she reached Dachau just ahead of the U.S. Army and jumped out of her jeep — only to find a watchtower filled with grim-looking SS guards pointing rifles and a machine gun at her. Not knowing quite what to do, she called out to them firmly, in German, with instinctive calm, "Come here, please; we are Americans." After a moment of silence, as they stared intently at Higgins, the 22 bemused SS men lowered their weapons and walked down from the watchtower to surrender to her.

The hurdles for ladies trying to get into the profession during the last 150 years were legion. For starters, it did not help that women were barred from going to university until 1870, by which time a degree had long since become almost a requirement for journalism. In addition, there was the enduring opprobrium levelled at females being in the kind of employment that often required working late at night in such close proximity to men.

Yet more difficulty lay in the strict modes of dress. The turn-of-the-century London journalist Emilie Marshall observed that long skirts "invariably sloshed around in the mud of Fleet Street", while the high-buttoned or laced boots, accompanied by unwieldy hats "speared to the hair by two stiletto-like hat pins with murderous points" resulted in, all told, "a sore handicap to news-gathering."

Underpinning Sebba's generally thought-provoking book are questions that have been debated for more than a century: are women more inclined to be emotionally affected, and therefore more susceptible to bias, when covering certain subjects?

Sebba's view is that times have changed, and so has the relevance of such questions. When covering a war, for instance, should we not now be asking if what takes place at the front line is really more important than what happens to the local population? Equally, could it not be that partisanship is, in certain instances, actually an essential ingredient of good journalism?

Not only are the questions changing, but also so are some of our ideas about good reporting — much to the credit, suggests Sebba, of women reporters — *Independent*.

Linda Joffee

## Women are still an oddity on aircraft carrier

By Maggie Fox  
Reuter

ABOARD USS SARATOGA — Lola Lewis expected to get raped when she became one of only three women to join 5,600 men aboard the U.S. aircraft carrier *Saratoga*.

"At the least I expected a lot of comments," said the petty officer from Washington state.

Instead, she found the sailors she worked with looked at her with something akin to terror in their eyes.

"They press up against the wall when we go by," said another of the trio, Kathy Calfee. "I think they're scared of us."

The three women, communications security specialists, are the first to be assigned long-term to the *Saratoga*, flagship aircraft carrier for the NATO ships

patrolling the Adriatic as part of the international effort in former Yugoslavia.

Although women have been serving on U.S. naval vessels for over a decade, they are being allowed more combat roles and would take part in any NATO strike against Serbia besieging the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

Lewis and her cabin-mates have been amused, and not a little relieved, at their reception on the *Saratoga* — a male bastion which has seen action off Lebanon, during the 1986 bombing of Libya, and in the Gulf War.

"It's a lot nicer than I expected," said Petty Officer First Class Calfee, a native of Las Vegas. "It's a lot better than the horror stories the guys had been telling me."

"I was afraid of getting raped," admitted Lewis, a

petty officer second class.

Instead, the men go out of their way to be polite.

Because there are only three women, Calfee and Lewis berth with an officer, ensign Jennifer Bolin.

"They are always careful," Bolin said of the male majority. "I haven't heard a swear word since I got here so I know they're being careful."

The three, who are based at Rota, Spain, all volunteered for duty aboard the *Saratoga*. They will stay at least three months — probably as long as six — and were intrigued to find they might become involved in combat just two weeks after coming aboard.

"It adds a little spice," said Lewis, who joined the navy to "get as far away as possible" from her tiny farming community.

The bombers, fighters and reconnaissance aircraft

aboard the *Saratoga* would be assigned as part of any strike against the Serbs.

Like the other sailors and aviators aboard ship, Bolin, Calfee and Lewis say their everyday duties would not change if the F-14s, F/A-18s and other jets went on the offensive.

"We might have to work a little bit longer," said Bolin, a naval academy graduate from Boston. "I think about those guys who have to load the bombs. They're the ones who will be affected."

Nor do the women expect special treatment, although their sex does afford them some concessions.

Their quarters are luxuries by carrier standards. Racks, as sailors' bunks are called, are stuffed in almost as an afterthought in various nooks and crannies of the ship. Men wrapped in towels wander the dimly lit

passageways as toilet and shower facilities are often distant from their berths.

But the three women have been assigned a quarantine cabin in the medical clinic. There are six racks and, wonder of wonders, an attached bathroom.

"This is a lot nicer than we expected," Calfee laughed as she brushed her teeth by the lamp of an electric lantern. "I feel sorry for those guys."

Nonetheless, facilities are basic. The navy-style shower dispenses lukewarm water only when a hand-held button is depressed, thus saving fresh water on a ship that must produce its own supply while at sea.

The thin metal walls do little to isolate the cabin from the noises of a busy 24-hour operation and the

women gave up on stuffing pillows against the loudspeaker that bellows out regular announcements.

Bells ring, whistles blow and voices bark at reveille, for evening prayers, and to tell sailors when meals begin and end. Privacy is an unknown concept.

"You have to get used to it fast," Calfee said.

"I can sleep through anything now," Lewis agreed. Bolin though finds it is not enough of a challenge.

"I am waiting for them to open submarines to women," she said, maintaining that she would not be put off by the even more cramped sleeping conditions and rules of operation that mean staying under water — and out of touch with the outside world — for as long as three months.

"Now that would be fun."

## French immigration laws keep lovers apart

By Juliette Holtier  
Larousse  
Agence France Presse

PARIS — A battery of new French anti-immigration rules and regulations is keeping lovers apart and separating legally-married husbands and wives.

The ill-starred couples are the victims of a juridical imbroglio caused by anti-immigrant legislation voted in August, 1993 by the new conservative government of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, reacting to anti-immigrant feeling caused by

12 per cent unemployment of 3.2 million and the recession.

The new laws were aimed against a growing trade in marriages of convenience in which a French man or woman would marry a foreigner so that he could obtain French citizenship. Authorities say that mixed marriages increased from 23,200 in 1986 to 30,500 in 1991 and that they have uncovered networks specialising in arranging marriages.

But in the process hundreds of true lovers are having their lives ruined.

"Under the pretext of fighting marriages of convenience. The government is preventing people from loving each other and founding a family," said Ruben Urrutia, an activist in a Committee for the Defence of Mixed Marriages and Couples.

Since last week, three women forcibly separated from their husbands have demonstrated every evening outside the Paris Prefecture, with their wedding photos pinned to their T-shirts.

"I got married on May 15, 1993 and on the 18th, all

hell broke loose," said Anne, a 28-year-old dancer. She wed a Bulgarian, Todor, who had been refused political asylum.

"We met more than two years ago, we lived together, but we waited to get married because we wanted to make sure it was true love, not just to get papers," Anne said.

As parliament debated a new nationality code, they went to the prefecture seeking a new residence permit. Six policemen arrested Todor.

Back in Sofia, Todor has made two so far fruitless

attempts to get a visa to re-enter France from the French consulate.

"Our rights are being flouted. We followed the procedures, but the authorities don't keep their word. I can't stand it any more," said Anne.

Fabienne Bricet, a 24-year-old student, and her Algerian boy-friend Ahmad Khalifa published marriage banns for their wedding on June 19, 1993. Khalifa, whose residence permit had expired, was deported to Oran, still unmarried.

Bricet went the following month to Oran, but there

the French consulate refused to marry them, saying it could only wed two French citizens. Algerian authorities also refused to marry them because Bricet had no residence permit.

She is now back in France while Khalifa hopes for a visa to return to France.

Several hundred couples have joined immigrant aid committees since Interior Minister Charles Pasqua's new laws came into effect. Mr. Urrutia's defence committee has 250 cases on its books and 20 new cases come in every week, he said.

## Whatever happened to backgammon?

Once highly fashionable, it deserves a revival, says Christopher Bray of the *Independent*

DO YOU remember backgammon? You couldn't walk into a club, pub or café in the late 1970s without tripping over a backgammon board or being disturbed by the rattle of dice. Famous personalities were often to be seen in fashionable locations avidly playing the game. Fortunes were won and lost as people played for ridiculously high stakes.

Backgammon was undergoing a huge surge in popularity and thousands of people took it up. Whatever happened to them all and what is the state of the game today?

The first question is easier to answer. Many games flourish for brief periods and reach unprecedented heights of popularity. Trivial Pursuit is one example. There is always a

group of people who will play whatever is in vogue and then move on to the next fad, whatever that may be. Undoubtedly many people who played backgammon in the Seventies have not played a game since then. But backgammon has a stronger pedigree than Trivial Pursuit, which is probably a one-off wonder. The game has been around for thousands of years in one form or another and is likely to survive for many more years yet. The invention of the doubling cube by some unknown gamesman in America in the early part of this century has seen to that.

The second question is more difficult. With many games there are a number of factors which will determine whether they become firmly established or simply

fade away when the craze has passed. Let's look at some of the criteria for a successful game in this modern era:

■ All really good games are easy to learn, relatively easy to learn to play well and it takes a lifetime to become truly adept.

■ For games of any complexity, there must be bibliography. Without books and magazines to instruct and provide information there will be no development and the game will die.

■ Clubs and tournaments. Without somewhere to play and like-minded people to play with, again there will be no development. The continued success of bridge is largely down to the huge numbers of clubs all over the country.

■ No game (or sport) can succeed today without media coverage and corporate sponsorship. You need

only examine the rapid development of chess in this country since Fisher vs Spassky (the 1972 match) to understand the power of the media. The recent Short vs Kasparov match will undoubtedly lead to a further surge of interest in chess.

How does backgammon measure up against these criteria? The first is certainly met. Apparently a simple game to the uninitiated, the complexities of high-level backgammon are endless. It combines elements of psychology, mathematics and logical thinking. Luck is a factor in the short term due to the dice, but over a long session the best player, as in poker, will always win. Computers do not yet play a credible game of backgammon. This is a combination of the complexity of the programming and the lack of investment in this area.

Backgammon has made considerable progress

against the second criterion in the last 20 years. In the 1970s the only books available were simple primers. There were no recorded matches or books on strategy and tactics. The first author to make real progress was the American genius Paul Magriel with his epic work *Backgammon* (currently out of print and changing hands at up to £75 a copy). Many new authors have come on the scene and there is now a plethora of material to choose from — not, however, in the U.K. In particular a lot of work has been done on the doubling cube, the least understood and most complex part of backgammon. There are also some very good magazines on the market. These emanate almost exclusively from America and Germany, the two strongest playing nations. The result of all of this is that the players of the 1990s are

light years ahead of their counterparts of the 1970s in their understanding and playing of the game.

It may surprise many people that there is a major backgammon tournament most weeks of the year. There are two basic circuits, one in America and one in Europe. The two come together in July when the World Championships are held in Monte Carlo. Tournaments are mainly held in five-star hotels in the more pleasant locales of the world (a sharp contrast to our chess-playing brethren). Britain suffers from a lack of a significant tournament because of the fact that our strange gaming laws preclude the holding of a tournament (at least one with money involved) in a hotel. The British Championships have been held in the Isle of Man for many years and one year were even held in Spain! Similar-

ly, while clubs flourish in America, Germany and Denmark, which provided both World Championship finalists last year, Britain is poorly served.

Sponsorship and media coverage were both available in the Seventies. The picture now is not so good. Most of the major tournaments can attract some sponsorship but there is not sufficient to raise backgammon back to the levels it enjoyed 20 years ago. To do that in this very commercial age will require media, and in particular television coverage. Videotaped matches have proved highly successful within the backgammon community for both their entertainment and educational value. As a TV game backgammon has extremely high potential. Compared with chess, it is easier to understand, moves at a more acceptable pace, has much more colourful

personalities and the luck element that the dice bring means that there is always the possibility of an outrageous turnaround. What more could a TV producer ask for?

So where is backgammon going? As a game it has been around as long as (or longer than) chess and will undoubtedly survive as long. As for the present, in the United States and areas of Europe, particularly Germany and Denmark, it is on the increase, with tournament attendances rising. In the United Kingdom the game survives but is stagnant. A shot in the arm is required to bring our playing standards up to the levels of our European counterparts. We need to attract new players into the game and find a way to bring top-level tournament backgammon back to Britain.



## A question of balance

By Jean-Claude Elias

To accomplish specific tasks we use appropriate tools, devices, or equipment. To go to the supermarket located on the same street, two blocks away from where we live or work, we walk — we do not take a car. It's faster and more convenient. To kill a flying insect we use a special spray instead of a Magnum 44 gun and to stick a stamp on an envelope we just moisten its back and do not use a hyper sophisticated super glue.

Why is it then that the new versions of computer programmes are so heavy and not proportionate with the work they are intended for?

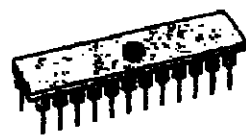
The hard disk of a personal computer (PC) typically has a current capacity of 120 MB, meaning that you can store on it 120 million characters. This includes both the programmes (the software) and your user data.

If you are considering installing Windows 3.1, Word 6 and Excel 5 (all are Microsoft programmes) on the hard disk here is a simple, though frightening calculation for you: 3 MB for the main DOS operating system, plus 12 MB for Windows, 22 MB for Word and 26 MB for Excel makes a total of 63 MB of disk space to occupy. Half of the disk is therefore "gone" before you even type a word or enter any of your own data. That is if you are the lucky owner of a 120 MB disk. If yours has 40 or 60 MB, you can forget about the above programmes.

Apart from the disk capacity question, just running the new programmes requires very fast PCs. Any thing less than a 486 machine with at least 4 MB of memory (8 MB recommended) will crawl at an unacceptable pace. Not all personal users own such a PC.

Compared to the 26 MB required to run the new Word, the user data looks like a small ant next to an elephant. Unless you are really publishing an encyclopedia or some huge work, your own data (your typing)

## chip talk



will only take a very minor fraction of what the programme itself is requiring. Moreover, waiting for the mammoth software to start, just to type a short letter is a very frustrating experience.

On the bright side however, is the astonishing number of features the new programmes offer. It is a dream come true. The designers probably went through an ideal wish list of selected users and decided to satisfy all of them. The menus, the colours have been improved, the possibility to read any type of file in any programme is an important advantage. Changing the text attributes (bold, italic, underlined, etc...) is even easier and faster than before. In Excel for instance one can now specify the attributes of a single letter within a cell.

Those who complained about the confusing number of icons (tiny drawing representing the functions to activate) will love the new system that temporarily, elegantly displays the name of the icon when the mouse cursor passes over it. I can confirm for having employed the new software that it is a real pleasure to use.

Still, one cannot help but wonder if it makes much sense to gather all this power and size for simple tasks that could be done faster and in a simpler way utilising older versions of the same programmes.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### AMAZING FACTS

- The first photograph was taken in 1826.
- Honey helps to promote sound and refreshing sleep because it is a body sedative.
- 500,000 gallons of water are used to launch a single intercontinental missile.
- The granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson was the first child born in the White House — 1806.
- The greatest number of eclipses possible in one year is seven.
- If the hair on a normal head were shorn and woven into rope, it could support a weight of ten tonnes.

### LET'S LEARN ARABIC

- What are you doing? Maza taf'aloona?
- Do what you like. La aarif zalek.
- What have you done? Maza fa'altom?
- What do you do for a living? Maza taf'al litaksab aishak?
- At Rome, do as the Romans do. Darilim ma domta fee darihim.
- I didn't know that. La aarif zalek.
- You don't tell the truth. Anta la takool al-sidk.
- I don't know what you mean. La aarif maza taksid.
- You don't understand me. Anta la taf'hamoni.
- What do you think? Ma ra'yok?
- May I come in? Hal tasmah lee bid-dokhoon?
- Do you mind if I smoke? Hal indak mani' addakhin?

### YOUR MEDICAL GUIDE

#### CATARRH

This is a very common ailment, especially in civilised communities. There is a chronic discharge from the nose, which is permanently "stuffed up". Often the condition follows a cold. In children it may be associated with adenoids, and in adults it may be due to a sinusitis. For the catarrh which follows an ordinary cold, relief may be obtained by using a pocket inhaler during the day, and inhaling Friar's Balsam (a teaspoonful to a pint of boiling water) night and morning.

### YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

**FOOTBALL:** If you dreamt of playing football, money windfall of some kind should soon come your way. Could be an unexpected bonus, extra dividends or even a legacy, but whatever it is it will be an interesting size. A dream of watching a football game is a warning to be more selective in making new friends.

**FREEDOM:** If you experienced a sensation of freedom in your dream, you can count on being content with the partner of your choice.

**KITTEN:** For a woman, a dream of playful kittens predicts a pleasant but unimportant romantic affair. For a man, it signifies a disappointment in love.

### COOKING IS FUN

#### AUBERGINES À LA PROVENCALE

#### COMPONENTS:

- 3 medium aubergines
- 4.5 table spoons olive oil

500g tomatoes, peeled and chopped salt, freshly ground black pepper  
1 garlic clove, peeled and crushed  
4 tablespoons fresh white breadcrumbs  
1 tablespoon chopped parsley  
25g butter

#### METHOD:

- Wash aubergines, trim off both ends and cut into slices. Place in a colander and sprinkle with salt. Press down with a plate and leave to stand for one hour so that the excess moisture drains off.
- Wash in cold water and dry on kitchen paper.
- Preheat oven to moderate 180°C.
- Heat oil in a frying pan and fry aubergine slices until golden brown on both sides. Drain.
- Fry tomatoes in oil remaining in the pan, or add a little more if necessary, and season well with salt and pepper. Add garlic.
- Transfer to a shallow casserole.
- Overlap aubergine slices on top of tomato mixture in casserole.
- Mix breadcrumbs with parsley and sprinkle over top of dish. Dot with butter.
- Cook, uncovered, in centre of oven for about 30 minutes or until top is crisp and brown.

\*\*\*\*\*

### CAKLES & CHUCKLES

■ She was sick in bed, and her husband, who was fixing her a cup of tea, called out that he couldn't find the tea.

"I don't know what could be easier to find," she answered.

"It's right in front of the pantry shelf in a cocoa tin marked 'Matches'."

\*\*\*\*\*

■ An elderly farm couple were visiting New York for the first time. The sights seemed to interest the old gentleman more than his wife, who finally exclaimed:

"John, the way you stare at these city women is something scandalous. Somebody would think you'd never seen legs before."

"Well," John mused, "that's just what I was thinking myself."

\*\*\*\*\*

### CHECK YOUR I.Q.

#### (A) WHO SAID THESE QUOTATIONS?

- "Live dangerously."
- "Democracy is a government of the people, by the people, for the people."
- I will rather have violence than cowardice masquerading as non-violence."

#### (B) INSERT THE MISSING LETTERS

A F — J I  
D C — G L

#### (C) FIND THE MISSING NUMBER:

B 5 L ?  
2 E 12 W

B	5	L	?
2	E	12	W

## You got no right

By E. Yaghi

"The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." The Gettysburg Address delivered Nov. 19, 1863 by Abraham Lincoln.

Amal is a third-year student at a Jordanian university. Her home town is Hebron and she is here on scholarship. She is a small, petit girl, serious in nature, polite, quiet and often pensive. During ten-minute breaks between classes, she sometimes takes a neatly folded letter from her folks and after smoothing it out, runs her finger lovingly down the lines stopping every now and then to ponder over some certain phrase. Sometimes her eyes twinkle, sometimes they shed a tear but most of her emotions are weathered in silence whether happy or sad.

On holidays and semester breaks, she gathers her few belongings, places them in a duffel bag and heads for the bridge that separates her from her homeland and family. And then, once through with the hassle of inspections, continues on her journey to Hebron and home. Her family consists of two brothers and her mother and father who live in a stone house on the hills not too far from the Ibrahim Mosque.

Once her vacation is over, the solitary Amal with tears of farewell and hugs to her beloved, waves good-bye once again until time and fate bring her back. She is the child of occupation, who has never known anything else. Armed troops overlaid with weapons are sights she has become accustomed to, under the stamp of hateful oppression.

When she returned this semester to the university, one of her few friends Sousan, who stays with her in the same dorm, greeted her with, "so glad to see you! How is your family? Were you happy to see them?"

All smiles, she answered, "I'm glad to see you too! My family is fine, thank you and yes, I'm always happy to visit them and home. But my vacations are too short. Life is hard there but somehow people manage."

Sousan is originally from Hebron too, but unlike Amal, she was born in Jordan so Amal knows her friend can't quite comprehend what living under the intifada is like. Now that she has one year left, one day she remarked to her friend, "I will miss being at the university. Life is so peaceful here and the only worries I have are exams."

The other day during a storm, Amal was awakened in the middle of the night by the sound of thunder accompanied by streaks of lightning which lit her room. Outside, the little chestnut tree near her window suddenly cracked in two and smoke charred its centre. She ran over to her roommate's bed, shook her and exclaimed, "Sousan, wake up! Come and see our chestnut tree! It's been burned and split in half! And look at the moon, it's black and sinister!"

Had it been a bad omen, she wondered. And then on Friday after Amal ate her Suhour, a terrible massacre occurred far away in the Ibrahim Mosque in her hometown of Hebron. Although she had exams, she felt listless and restless and not knowing how to study, returned to her bed to try to sleep. Finally, way after the sun appeared, she dozed off, only to be summoned later still foggy-eyed and confused by a caller at her dorm. "Who is it?" she asked her friend Sousan.

"I think she's your aunt. She wants to see you, says it's urgent!"

Amal dressed quickly but her hands trembled and she could barely fasten the clasp to her dress or brush her hair. "I'm afraid," she whispered to Sousan. "What if it's bad news?"

Her friend patted her arm reassuringly. "Don't worry. Be brave and God be with you. Would you like me to go down to accompany you just in case?"

Amal nodded in the affirmative. Both girls ran down the stairs to the reception room to an elderly woman who sat blinking away tears and wringing her hands. Amal's complexion turned the colour of white ash and she forced out the words: "Please, aunt, what's the matter? Is there something wrong with my family?"

When the young girls approached her, the elderly woman stood up. She hugged Amal and then still holding her shoulders declared: "My dear child, I regret to inform you that this morning during the Fajr prayer, your father and young brother were shot by some Jewish settlers! I think you should come home with me for at least a few days!"

So that's it, she thought as an anvil seemed to pound in her head. The charred chestnut tree, the veiled moon, her restlessness. Then she blurted out, "Please tell me, are they still alive?"

"Control yourself child. Sit down." The girl sat. "Believe me, it is very difficult for me to tell you that your little brother died instantly and your father is in critical condition at Al Ahli Hospital."

That evening, the still corpses were shown on the news and even American President Bill Clinton expressed his condolences to the bereaved families of the slaughtered. But who could console Amal? Who would take away her pain? The river of blood that floods its banks of apathy and indifference rushes towards a sea of hate, carnage, wretchedness and despair which swells and envelops everything in its path. Amal felt she could cry no more and at her uncle's house in a dark room she asked the world: "Why? Why are my people persecuted? My little brother was slain along with countless others by an American physician who hated him for no reason. Perhaps my father will die too. Here I am, not allowed to go home and not knowing how to continue my studies for all life seems useless. Even if I do graduate, to whom shall I teach the fundamentals of linguistics, phonetics, and Shakespeare? It all seems so pointless, so futile! Innocent people massacred like sheep. Where is my promised country in which we will establish a government of the people, by the people and for the people? Oh, world, you are so cruel! You got no right to treat me like you do; you got no right to wrench my heart in two!"

Bloody Friday witnessed the brutal massacre of the faithful who knelt in prayer during the holy month of Ramadan. Little and big Palestinian boys within the occupied territories bravely hurled their small stones against tanks of steel and machine guns and armed enemy troops bent on further killing. Ambulances screamed their way over cobble streets through the crowds to deliver the dead and wounded, while wives, mothers and sisters of the victims wept in vain for those who had gone to pray and never returned.

For youth like Amal, will Palestine ever have a new birth of freedom upon grounds that cannot be hallowed or consecrated by the living? And what will our demonstrations and shallow words of condolences do for such as Amal? Her life will never again be the same. Will ours?

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

### Thursday, March 3

#### 9:30 Local programme

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Faces And Places

#### 11:50 Movie Of The Week — Murder On The Rio Grande

Starring: Victoria Principal and Peter Onorato

An exciting and enjoyable river trip for Maggie, a divorcee, and her friend, Eric, turns into a nightmare.

### Friday, March 4

#### 9:30 Walter And Emily

Zak gets a taste of French culture at home — and Walter goes back to work to save money to buy Emily a new diamond ring.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 G.P.

#### Playing By The Book

Dr. Steve exposes a company for marketing an untested drug, which causes death in the hospital. The doctor who administers it gets into trouble too.

#### 11:30 Scene Of The Crime

#### Devil Music

Two bodies end up in a big aquarium. Both deaths are the result of a promised

marriage proposal that was never kept.

### Saturday, March 5

#### 9:30 Family Matters

#### Bowl Me Over

It seems that "women" are beating their male partners in every single bowling game; a fact that threatens the men's ego.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Local Programme

#### 10:50 Feature Film — A Thousand Heroes

Starring: Charlton Heston and James Coburn.

Passengers on a domestic flight in the U.S. have a traumatic experience, when their plane crashes and catches fire. Hundreds of rescuers perform heroic deeds.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 G.P.

#### Playing By The Book

Dr. Steve exposes a company for marketing an untested drug, which causes death in the hospital. The doctor who administers it gets into trouble too.

#### 11:30 Scene Of The Crime

#### Devil Music

Two bodies end up in a big aquarium. Both deaths are the result of a promised

are traced back to the Sumerians who lived in Iraq, and to the Mayas in Honduras, some 3,000 years ago.

### Monday, March 7

#### 11:10 Island Son

#### Everyday People

Luke is fatally ill; and Daniel, amid personal concerns to get married, suggests the buying of a hotel to shelter people threatened with expulsion.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Local Programme

#### 10:50 Feature Film — A Thousand Heroes

#### Say Uncle

Kirby and his uncle are guests of the Torkelsons; and both men have love on their mind.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Feature Film — The Rescue

A dangerous operation is set to rescue four U.S. soldiers held hostage by the North Koreans. They were sent to save a U.S. submarine from falling into North Korean hands.

#### 11:50 Sorry

#### Great Expectations

Timothy's visiting aunt wants to know how true her sister's claims are, about how good Timothy is in financial investments, in

order to decide whether to bequeath him her wealth.

### Tuesday, March 8

#### 9:30 The Respected Family

Heated arguments and rows shake the respected family, especially when the two sisters fail to see eye-to-eye.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 The Cape Rebel

#### 11:15 Night Court

#### The Retirement

Florence, the court's usher spends her last memorable moments with her friends before her retirement.

### Wednesday, March 9

#### 9:30 Too Close For Comfort

Henry & his brother are reunited after 40 years of separation only to start an argument about who was responsible for their separation.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Documentary — The Coral World

#### The Shipwreck Reefs

The documentary explores the strange and colourful life existing in the seas off Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Divers also explore the hazardous wreckage of a sunken ship.



## U.S. films tempting talented foreign actresses

By John Horn  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Juliette Binoche had a choice. The actress could co-star in a lavish, Hollywood blockbuster from the world's most popular director, or she could take the lead role in an obscure, low-budget French film.

Ms. Binoche did what any serious artist would do — she passed on *Jurassic Park* and instead made *Blue*.

Like several young and talented European stars, Ms. Binoche is being courted heavily by studio deal makers. Heftier salaries and worldwide exposure make the Hollywood offer sheets increasingly appealing, but with the promise of that economic bark comes a creative bite.

Although their financing is spotty, European filmmakers continue to explore daring, often riveting subjects. *Blue*, for example, stands out as a poetic and often heartbreaking

account of a widow's grief, and Ms. Binoche has an outside chance for a Best Actress Academy Award nomination next week.

The studios, meanwhile, have settled into predictable rhythms, and the strong female promise of more *Thelma And Louise* roles seems to have died when the two movie heroines plunged off a cliff three years ago.

Consequently, many overseas performers who travel here in search of higher profiles (and fatter paychecks) wind up forfeiting their acting potential at the customs gate.

For example, Rutger Hauer, who played in the Dutch classics *Spetters* and *Soldier Of Orange*, now lists *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* as one of his local credits.

The tradeoff is particularly acute for actresses such as Ms. Binoche, Anna Galiena and Valeria Golino. All three are beautiful, exotic and capable, rare attributes in Hollywood's fascination

with typically one-dimensional, shallow beauties — take your pick of any box-office attraction. What's more, all three foreign-language stars speak English beautifully.

Yet while these actresses may be cast in complex, prominent parts in Spanish, French and Italian productions, female roles in the United States are sharply limited. Foreign and domestic actresses alike are shoehorned into window-dressing parts, frequently playing subservient roles to male marquee heroes.

"I know my best work is in my Italian movies," says Ms. Golino, who has made 15 little-known European films to six American titles, including *Hot Shots*, *Rain Man* and the May release *Clean Slate*.

"The roles (in the United States) were never the motor of the story, where in Europe they were," she says.

Ms. Galiena, who starred in the French film *The Hairdresser's Husband* and co-



Juliette Binoche

stars in the upcoming Italian movie *The Great Pumpkin*, has turned down three American roles in recent months.

"They weren't up to my standards," she says. "They were projects of very high visibility, and rather secure of having box-office success. I just didn't like the scripts. I found them superficial: Well-constructed but shallow."

"We make some good

films and some bad films (in Europe)," she says. "Some films — like *Cyrano* — are made to cross the ocean. But most of our films are made to please. It's not a big conglomerate affair. It's free and people can express themselves. When one of our pictures flops, nobody commits suicide; no studio head loses a job."

Ms. Galiena recently co-starred in *Being Human*, a Robin Williams movie due this spring that Ms. Galiena says is both well written and directed. Strangely enough, she speaks not English in it but an obscure, romance language.

Ms. Binoche says that while she was not legally bound to star in *Blue*, she had made a personal commitment when the *Jurassic Park* offer (later accepted by Laura Dern) came through.

What she found in *Blue*, though, transcended dinosaurs and box-office grosses: The character was rich enough. "I'm not looking for the biggest (movie), for

fame and money," Ms. Binoche says. "I knew this woman and I wanted to make a trip with her."

Like *Blue*, Ms. Galiena's *The Great Pumpkin* is not destined to be a runaway hit. Set in a child's psychiatric hospital, *The Great Pumpkin* does not yet even have a U.S. distributor, Ms. Galiena says.

"It's natural to be confronted with questions about how this will be received in the states," says Ms. Galiena. "The American movie machine is such that you have distribution all over the world. You may do a great European picture like *The Great Pumpkin* and it's not seen all over the world."

Like anyone else, Ms. Galiena has to make a living. Despite the recent three rejections, she says she is not "against doing a commercial project. But I will have to want to do it. The one principle I have in life is to be true to myself."

After finishing *Clean Slate* with comedian Dana

Carvey, Ms. Golino left the United States for Greece, where she starred in a movie whose biggest name was American character actor Seymour Cassel.

There was so little money that the actress wrote a check to help bankroll the production.

"It was a great script with an inspired director," she says, and typical of overseas efforts. "I'll do an American movie next and then a movie in Georgia (of the former Soviet Union) with another poor unknown director."

"In Europe, it's more of a director's movie. In America, generally, it's more of a producer's movie. Because so much money is involved, it has to be liked by everyone. It's not one person's — the filmmaker's — point of view."

In the end, though, big-ticket blockbusters do have their appeal.

"If they had offered me *Jurassic Park*," Ms. Golino says, "I probably would have done it."



Valeria Golino

## Fellini scriptwriter recalls sad final years of 'il maestro'

By John Follain  
Reuters

PARIS — Italian film director Federico Fellini was celebrated by his countrymen as a legend of post-war cinema when he died last October.

Now a new picture is emerging of a man who was increasingly lonely and sad in the last years of his life and felt abandoned by the film world.

According to Fellini's scriptwriter and close friend Bernardino Zapponi, the director fell prey to depression and became obsessed with death. He would repeatedly call his friends simply to find out what they were up to.

In an interview, Zapponi described his long relationship with "il maestro", and how Fellini turned increasingly bitter before his death at the age of 73.

"He was impatient, distressed and distressing. He was always obsessed with death," 66-year-old Zappo-

ni, who scripted many of the films which made Fellini a towering figure in the Cinema, said during a visit to Paris.

"Fellini phoned everybody, he needed to call us just to ask what we were doing. I'd ask him: 'What are you up to?'. He was full of pessimism — 'nothing, no one's offering me work'."

Zapponi, who plans to write a book about the time he shared with Fellini, whom he first met in 1967. Fellini had been impressed by a collection of short stories which Zapponi had published and asked him to write a script.

In a "partnership" which lasted more than a decade, Zapponi wrote scripts for a series of films including *Satyricon* in 1969, *Roma* in 1972, and *La Citta' Delle Donne* (*City Of Women*) in 1980.

Each time Fellini started a project, he suffered from the same paralyzing affliction.

"He was joyful enough when signing the contract for an advance payment. But when we had to start work he felt some disgust. He was afraid of the project — there was something stopping him from going ahead," Zapponi said.

The two men would spend hours exchanging ideas before committing anything to paper. "We'd meet at my home or go out for a drive to the seaside at Ostia outside Rome. He'd make my wife drive so we could chat in the back."

"It wasn't work, it was fun. Fellini spoke in images, that's what we would talk about. We'd look through books of actors, he'd choose one with the face of a butcher for the part of a senator — he always looked for contrast."

Fellini proved a demanding taskmaster on the set, despite persuading actors of the calibre of Marcello Mastroianni (for his most famous film, *La Dolce Vita*, in 1960) and Donald

Sutherland (for *Casanova* set in 18th century Venice) to work with him.

"Fellini was very good at seducing actors, but he could also throw tempers. He would shout and swear and throw the megaphone to the ground. He bled actors dry," said Zapponi.

Impatient and obstinate, Fellini brooked no criticism.

One exception was the 1980 film *City Of Women*, in which a man meets a woman on a train and is led into a world of aggression and confusion populated only by women.

After Zapponi had written the script, Fellini was worried that the film would quickly become dated because it did not take into account the feminist movement then taking hold in Italy.

"It was the only script Fellini ever showed to anybody to seek advice. He showed it to (British) feminist Germaine Greer, who was then living in Italy.

The film became a hybrid, it did not have any continuity," Zapponi said.

After the film was made, Fellini broke with several members of his team, including Zapponi and his chief cameraman, in an attempt to make a fresh start. But the director and scriptwriter remained friends, seeing each other frequently.

In his last years, an increasingly depressed Fellini found it difficult to find a producer willing to finance his ideas despite his five Oscars, one awarded for life-time achievement.

"He refused what was offered him. There was an American offer for him to film Dante's *Inferno*. The last years were very sad. His phone calls to me were heart-rending," Zapponi said.

Fellini's melancholic mood was reflected in his last major film, the 1989 *La Voce Della Luna* (*The*



The late director Federico Fellini (centre) rehearsing with two unidentified actors during the shooting of his film *Roma* (file photo)

*Voice Of The Moon*), in which a romantic vagabond seeks out primal voices that have been drowned out by the din of modern life.

"Fellini was emptying his drawers, the film is a sum-

mary of his stereotype characters," said Zapponi.

The last time Zapponi saw Fellini was in a Rome hospital, the day before the director, who had suffered a stroke, fell into a coma

from which he never recovered.

"Come back soon," Fellini told him as he lay on his death-bed. "Come back alone so we can talk about work."

## European museums locked in unequal battle with thieves

By John Follain  
Reuters

PARIS — When thieves made off with *The Scream*, a priceless 19th century painting by Edvard Munch, they left a cheeky note at Oslo's National Gallery.

"Thanks for the poor security," read the note, left when the picture was taken on Feb. 12, the opening day of the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, the message sounded like a warning, not just to the Oslo gallery but to collections across Europe.

Directors of leading museums from the Louvre in Paris to the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, and from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence to the National Gallery in Prague, are learning the hard way.

"The lesson of the Munch theft is that we are all vulnerable and that no museum is fall-safe," said Maurice Graveaud. The government official in charge of security at France's major museums including the Louvre and the Musee D'Orsay in Paris.

"We're fighting against a paradox. We have to protect artworks as if they were treasures in a bank but we also have to show them to the public. Criminals find the gaps," he said.

In Oslo, one man climbed into the gallery while his accomplice steadied the lad-

der. They smashed a window, grabbed Munch's 1893 painting of a face wide-mouthed in terror, and vanished.

It was not a particularly spectacular or daring raid, compared to some other landmark thefts.

Again at Oslo's National Gallery, thieves made off in 1982 with no less than eight masterpieces — works by Rembrandt, Picasso, Gauguin, Van Gogh and Goya worth up to \$6.7 million.

One April morning in 1991, four armed Dutchmen slipped into Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum just before dawn and grabbed 20 works by their 19th century compatriot — including *Self Portrait* and *Still Life With Sunflowers*.

The same year, a band of thieves walked out of Prague's National Gallery with four Picasso paintings worth \$30 million, the famous *Port Of Cadques* among them.

Last July, a gang broke through the glass roof at the British Museum in London and stole ancient Roman gold and silver coins, brooches and rings worth \$369,000.

In all four cases, the works of art were subsequently recovered — in Amsterdam they were found in an abandoned getaway car only hours after the break-in. Experts say it

is extremely difficult to sell a stolen masterpiece.

Estimates of the value of fine art theft range from some \$750 million to well into billions of dollars. The privately-funded International Foundation for Art Research in New York has recorded some 35,000 works of art stolen since 1976.

Besieged by enterprising and ill-intentioned visitors, museums with invariably tight budgets are having to spend more and more on costly security systems.

This is money they would much prefer to dedicate to restoring works and improving facilities.

"Museums around the world are forced to become like Fort Knox. This is not a suitable atmosphere in which to view art," said Bjorn Springfeldt, director of Stockholm's Modern Museum.

Security at the Stockholm museum was stepped up after five Picasso paintings, a Picasso bronze sculpture and two works by French cubist Georges Braque were stolen in November.

The thieves succeeded in sawing through the roof without triggering the alarm system or alerting a lone security guard. The museum's security budget is now running at some 10,000 crowns (\$1,250) a day.

Galleries in the former

Soviet Bloc cannot afford to spend such sums. But they may well be more at risk than their richer Western counterparts.

After Eastern Europe began opening its borders in 1989, smuggling Picasso paintings, valuable violins, jewellery, icons and other works of art to Western markets just a few hours' drive away flourished.

The thriving trade in stolen art plagues the Czech Republic to such an extent that last November the Culture Ministry enlisted the help of the international police organisation Interpol to stem the tide of works crossing its borders.

"At first it was pure amateurs (who were involved)... but recently it seems that well-organised gangs are stealing on the orders of other people interested in a particular piece," said Daniela Marsalkova of the ministry's Galleries and Museums Department.

As in the rest of Eastern Europe, few of the Czech Republic's museums have the money to pay for trained 24-hour guards or high-tech wizardry — video cameras, alarms, infra-red detection rays and armoured windows.

Whether it is state-of-the-art or more primitive, no security system can guarantee absolute protection.

## Wheelchair dancers turn disability into art

By Jill Serjeant  
Reuters

LONDON — Two of the dancers are in wheelchairs and are unable to use their legs. A third has no legs at all.

Yet the Candoco Company perform some of the most imaginative and stunning dance works ever seen on a British stage and fiercely resist being labelled an exercise in public relations for the disabled.

Self-pity, along with pointes and pirouettes, has no place in the Candoco repertoire even for the five able-bodied young men and women who with the three crippled dancers make up the company.

"We like to think of ourselves as a regular dance company," said co-founder Celeste Dandeker, a former member of the London Contemporary Dance Theatre left paralysed after a stage accident more than 15 years ago.

"Obviously the unique make up of the company stands us apart from others but hopefully when we've been seen a bit more people will look at the work rather than who is disabled and who is not," she added.

As their name suggests, Candoco prefer to focus on what disabled dancers are able to do rather than on their limitations and as a result often move audiences to tears of astonishment

rather than compassion.

Wheelchairs whizz and spin about the stage, tipping backwards and sideways like an extension of the dancer's body rather than a constraint.

They become props from which the able-bodied dancers balance or take flight as they tenderly cradle the crippled occupants in their arms, or sometimes viciously eject them.

But the star of the show

Laban Centre for Movement and Dance as its first disabled dance student, Toole is surprised at how Candoco's work can change people's opinion of disability in one performance.

"But we're not pushing this. We just enjoy what we're doing," he said.

Ballet critics have been swiftly won over. The Guardian described their work as "an extraordinary vision". The dance critic of the

the disabled dancers than the others.

"They have gone through physical catharsis at some point. They have had to deal in a very real sense with what has happened to their bodies and seemed to know innately how to alter the tone, weight and colour of movement," Davies said. "For me the challenge was working with the able-bodied dancers who had not gone through that extraordinary experience."

Although resisting being categorised as a disabled group, Candoco evote about half their time to running workshops in schools and with other dancers, both professional and beginners.

Their fame has spread abroad and they have been invited to Romania this year both to perform and organise workshops aimed at overturning negative attitudes to the physically and mentally handicapped. Australia is also beckoning.

The members of Candoco have no desire to become a caring-sharing role model for minority groups.

"It is a reflection on how little inter-reaction many people in mainstream life have with disabled people that we are seen as something very special," said Adam Benjamin, who formed Candoco with Dandeker.

**Self-pity, along with pointes and pirouettes, has no place in the Candoco repertoire even for the five able-bodied young men and women who with the three crippled dancers make up the company.**

needs no wheelchair.

David Toole, 29, was born without legs and has been dancing for only three years. Yet his long, powerful and expressive arms together with a haunting charisma make him a virtuoso rather than a freak.

He can skitter fast across the stage, weaving in and out and over his partners, arch and angle his torso with the same kind of control and expression displayed by able-bodied dancers performing arabesques.

A former postal worker who spent a year at the London branch of the

Financial Times said Toole's duet with able-bodied Kul-dip Singh-Barmi was "astounding both in its dynamic outlines and in its psychological resonances."

Formed three years ago, the London-based company is just starting a nationwide tour featuring new works commissioned from two of Britain's most experienced contemporary choreographers.

Slobhan Davies, choreographer for the Rambert Dance Company and English National Ballet, said that to her surprise she found it easier to work with



# Study urges wider use of medicines to dilate blood vessels

## Heart failure drugs 'could save up to 30,000 lives a year'

By Celia Hall

WIDER use of drugs to dilate blood vessels could save up to 30,000 lives a year in direct costs to the National Health Service, experts said yesterday.

The drugs, whose main action is to dilate blood vessels, could dramatically reduce the number of hospital admissions, which account for 60 per cent of the cost of treating heart

failure to the NHS.

An independent study of the costs of heart failure by Dr. John McMurray, a consultant cardiologist, and two health economists from the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, says that for every 1,000 heart failure patients treated for three years there would be 50 fewer deaths and 350 fewer hospital admissions.

Dr. Philip Poole-Wilson, British Heart Foundation

professor of cardiology at the National Heart and Lung Institute, London, said good evidence of the effectiveness of ACE inhibitors had been established over the past two or three years.

"Here is a medical advance whose action in actively reducing mortality is rarely seen in medicine," he said. "In Britain we think that 10 to 15 per cent of the population with heart failure have these drugs. It should be 60 to 70 per cent."

He said heart failure affects 1 per cent of the population and accounts for 5 per cent of hospital stays. About half die within four years and those with severe heart failure are unlikely to survive for more than a year.

Heart failure is the condition in which heart muscle has been damaged prevent-

ing the heart from functioning properly. The result is tiredness and breathlessness. In severe cases the patient is unable to walk more than a few steps without collapsing.

Heart transplant is the treatment offered to young sufferers. Older and elderly patients are prescribed diuretics to keep down levels of water retained in the body.

The full costs of a heart

transplant are £24,000. About 570,000 people suffer from heart failure in the United Kingdom at cost of £360m annually to the NHS. This is more than 10 per cent of what the NHS spends on the whole range of heart diseases.

Heart failure patients stay a long time in hospital when admitted, on average 11-12 days. This accounts for 60 per cent of the costs of treating heart failure, while the present drugs' bill only accounts for 7.5 per cent of the total.

Dr. Murray and his colleagues have worked out that increased use of ACE inhibitors — there are eight varieties on the market — would reduce hospitalisations by 29,278 a year and save £51.2m.

Dr. Poole-Wilson said that prescribing of ACE inhibitors may be low because early trials using very high

doses on very sick people caused side effects, including low blood pressure. Some doctors were wary as a result but they now know that low doses are effective. A course of treatments costs about £160 a year for the rest of life.

The drugs would not be suitable for some patients with low blood pressure and people with certain forms of kidney problems — independent.

Test tube studies have shown that antioxidant vitamins C and E as well as Betacarotene reduce oxidation damage. Many clinical trials studying the links between these antioxidants and risks for various diseases are currently under way but thus far little such research has been published.

The researchers bred the flies by micro-injecting into embryos two genes that produce antioxidant enzymes.

They said the technique might one day be used to produce livestock or pets that live longer. However, they ruled out a similar approach in humans because of ethical considerations and current limitations on genetic engineering.

# Home male fertility test puts shy men in the pink

By Sue Fleming

REUTER. GHEENT, Belgium — Men will be able to test their fertility in the comfort of their own homes with the launch in Europe this month of a male sperm test.

Called Fertilityscore, the test was pioneered by Professor Frank Comhaire, head of endocrinology at the Academic Hospital in Ghent, northwestern Belgium, in collaboration with a U.S.-based scientist, Robert Ericsson.

Infertility affects 10 to 12 per cent of all couples and medical research shows up to 50 per cent of infertility is due to problems with the man, says Prof. Comhaire.

The Ghent professor hopes his invention will spare many women from unnecessary, painful and expensive fertility tests which are usually more difficult than the male version.

"Call me a feminist, but I think women have had to take the full responsibility for infertility for far too long," Prof. Comhaire, who has been involved in infertility research for more than 25 years, told Reuters.

"The male factor in infertility has been underestimated for years," he added. Men are often reluctant to have their sperm tested, largely because of the embarrassment of having to masturbate in a hospital lavatory or cramped cubicle to produce a sperm sample.

"It's much better and easier for men to do the tests at home. Also, many men simply will often not go to see a doctor if they have a problem," Prof. Comhaire said.

The test is based on a procedure devised by Dr. Ericsson to measure fertility in bulls. The human test, which was adapted by Prof. Comhaire, had to be much more sensitive because bulls produce 1,000 times more sperm cells than the human male.

"The test is very simple, but it is a spark of genius for Dr. Ericsson to think that this test could be adapted for the human male," Prof. Comhaire said.

The male fertility test works in a similar way to a female pregnancy test, with results that check against a

colour chart.

The test measures the amount of mobile sperm in a sample by using a blue dye, if the sample goes pink, there is enough vigorous sperm to give a couple an 87 per cent chance of conceiving within one year. In infertile men, the sample will turn deep purple.

Scientifically, the test measures the amount of oxygen in the sperm. The more mobile the sperm, the more oxygen they will consume. If the level of oxygen in the sperm falls below a certain level, then the test result will be pink.

Prof. Comhaire said research indicated the test was about 90 per cent accurate, but warned against couples using the results as a method of contraception.

"You have to have zero sperm to be absolutely infertile. This test may show that you are sub-fertile, but you are not sterile," said Prof. Comhaire.

Fertilityscore costs 750 Belgian francs (\$21) and each pack contains two tests. If the test result is uncertain or negative, the man should stay off alcohol

and cigarettes and repeat it after several weeks.

The test has not yet been marketed in the United States because its inventors are still waiting for approval from the authorities before launching it. However, it is being sold in several European countries and will soon be on sale in Australia.

Prof. Comhaire said he believed it was the perfect time to launch a home male fertility test because help was usually available should the sperm test be negative.

"I would never, for example, launch an AIDS test now. There is nothing you can do for AIDS... But in most couples, you will be able to find some solution to infertility," he said.

Prof. Comhaire's two sons are involved with producing the test and have turned the family home into a small factory, complete with a sterilised laboratory and an assembly line.

Under a deal with the university, some of the proceeds from the test will be funneled back into Ghent University to fund more research into fertility.

# Study confirms theory of aging

By Teresa Riordan  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — A new study provides the first direct evidence for the long-standing theory that a by-product of breathing known as oxygen free radicals is an underlying cause of aging.

"It's a major contribution," Joe McCord, a professor of medicine at the Webb-Waring Institute of the University of Colorado and a pioneer in free-radical research, told Reuters.

"The theory has been around for 30 years, but this is the first strong support for it."

The free-radical theory of aging suggests that when oxygen is absorbed by cells during the process of respiration, harmful free radicals — molecules that are highly unstable because they have an extra electron — are formed.

The normal level of antioxidants in cells is insufficient to totally counteract

the radicals, the theory says, and some of them escape and wreak irreparable harm to cells.

Southern Methodist University (SMU) researchers genetically engineered fruit flies so that they would increase by about 30 per cent their natural production of enzymes that mop up oxygen free radicals before they can cause the body damage.

Rajinder Sohal and William Orr, professors of biology at SMU, found that one group of the specially bred fruit flies lived longer — an average of 72 days as compared to the average life span of 55 days among normal fruit flies.

The new breed had a maximum age of 93 days while the regular breed lived no more than 71 days at best.

They also found that the genetically engineered flies produced less of a free-radical byproduct called protein carbonyl and that

they could walk from 10 to 20 per cent faster than their regular counterparts.

"In other words, the quality of life of the flies was better," Prof. Sohal told Reuters. "They were stronger physiologically."

The researchers reported on their findings in the latest issue of the journal Science.

Prof. Sohal said the findings, funded by the National Institute on Aging, should shed light on the effect of oxygen free radicals in all air-breathing animals from fruit flies to humans, because they employ similar mechanisms to counteract free radicals.

The study "presents for the first time some rather definitive experiments that show that the free-radical mechanism of aging is a valid concept," said Earl Stadtman, a biochemist at the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute who first showed a correlation between the age of animals

and an increased level of free-radical byproducts.

Free radicals also have been implicated in all manner of diseases, including cancer, stroke and heart attacks.

Test tube studies have shown that antioxidant vitamins C and E as well as Betacarotene reduce oxidation damage. Many clinical trials studying the links between these antioxidants and risks for various diseases are currently under way but thus far little such research has been published.

The researchers bred the flies by micro-injecting into embryos two genes that produce antioxidant enzymes.

They said the technique might one day be used to produce livestock or pets that live longer. However, they ruled out a similar approach in humans because of ethical considerations and current limitations on genetic engineering.

# The agonists and the ecstasy

By John Ilman

Every so often there is a surge of interest in the pharmaceutical industry about a new product range. It happened with benzodiazepine (which began Valium and Lib) in the sixties. It is happening again with 5-hydroxy-tryptamine (5-HT) or serotonin. The serotonin "family" includes the antidepressant Prozac — acclaimed as "the wonder drug" of the nineties. Prozac has assumed a cultural identity all of its own (even though it is inspiring lawsuits from people alleging bad experiences with it).

Serotonin makes the benzodiazepines seem like small beer. The benzodiazepine story was largely restricted to anxiety, with some muscle-relaxing power on the side. The serotonin saga embraces schizophrenia and addiction; panic disorders and sexual deviation... the stuff of multi-billion-pound pharmaceutical roulette. It has already produced, in addition to Prozac, big returns. Sumatriptan relieves migraine. Ondansetron inhibits nausea and vomiting.

Serotonin is a naturally occurring chemical distributed widely throughout the body. It works as both a neurotransmitter and a local hormone. Within the brain and spinal cord it affects thermoregulation or temperature control; sleep and wakefulness; cardiovascular function; motor function; sexual behaviour; psychotic behaviour; and drug-induced hallucinatory states.

It works by latching itself on to 5-HT receptor proteins on cells in the cardiovascular system, brain and gut. How? One way to explain how a natural chemical or drug works is to think of a lock and key: the chemical or drug is the "key", the receptor cell is the "lock". Serotonin is more like a master key which can open a number of different chemical locks.

Research is progressing on two fronts: the first is concerned with producing synthetic variants of 5-HT to block 5-HT receptors. These are called antagonists or blockers. The second is aimed at finding variants to stimulate 5-HT receptors. These are called agonists.

"Targets" include: SUICIDE: Post-mortem studies suggest that 5-HT agonists may stop harmful, impulsive behaviour. Arsonists and people who have killed themselves by violent means have been found to have low 5-HT concentrations in the brain. ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOUR: The effect of 5-HT on impulse control may help smokers and drinkers by holding craving in check. Rats addicted to alcohol voluntarily reduced

intake after taking 5-HT agonists. The Journal Psychopharmacology reported: "There may be a complex web of interconnections between primary drives (such as hunger), use of addictive drugs (such as nicotine) and stress — the commonest link between all three being patterns of activation in 5-HT pathways."

NAUSEA: The drug ondansetron (a blocker) inhibits nausea and vomiting, enabling doctors to prescribe powerful anti-cancer drugs which might otherwise have disabling side-effects. Ondansetron seems to suppress 5-HT activity in the gut, preventing the brain from activating the "vomiting reflex."

MIGRAINE: Research suggests migraine is triggered by widening of blood vessels in the membrane covering the brain. The drug Sumatriptan (a blocker) constricts these vessels and mimics naturally occurring 5-HT. In one study, up to 80 per cent of patients obtained relief after Sumatriptan injections.

What about Prozac? It is a "selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor." Depression is linked to a reduction in the brain of neurotransmitters, among them serotonin. Prozac increases serotonin levels. But the controversy over Prozac not to mention the Valium story, should preclude premature euphoria — The Guardian.

# Migraine's wonder drug?

By John Ilman

An injectable migraine drug has transformed the life of John Bolton, a 45-year-old company secretary. His case shows why migraine has become a medical story of our time. He first tried aspirin, betablockers (drugs usually prescribed for high blood pressure), tranquilisers, acupuncture, relaxation techniques and homeopathy. He says: "I can now do the things I plan to do without fear."

The customer does not always come first in the new marketplace. Some GPs ration or will not prescribe Sumatriptan (£20 a shot). Not that everyone wants it. Needle phobia is rife. There is concern about drug side-effects and the fashion for complementary medicine. Britain's four million migraine sufferers are shopping around as never before. Some try yoga; others combine treatments incorporating a pain-killer and an anti-nausea agent. Previously many sufferers did not take painkillers for fear they would make themselves nauseous.

Paradoxically, painkillers can actually cause headaches in people who repeatedly wake up with a headache and take a pill to prevent it getting worse or developing into a migraine. The only way to break the cycle, doctors advise, is to try preventive medicine, such as betablockers, prescribed by the doctor.

Experimentation involves more than drugs. Prevention is the best treatment of all. Many people have a migraine if they miss a meal, eat chocolate, sleep too much or too little, or undertake hard physical exercise. Women are known to be more susceptible in the week before their period. The contraceptive pill can also act as a trigger.

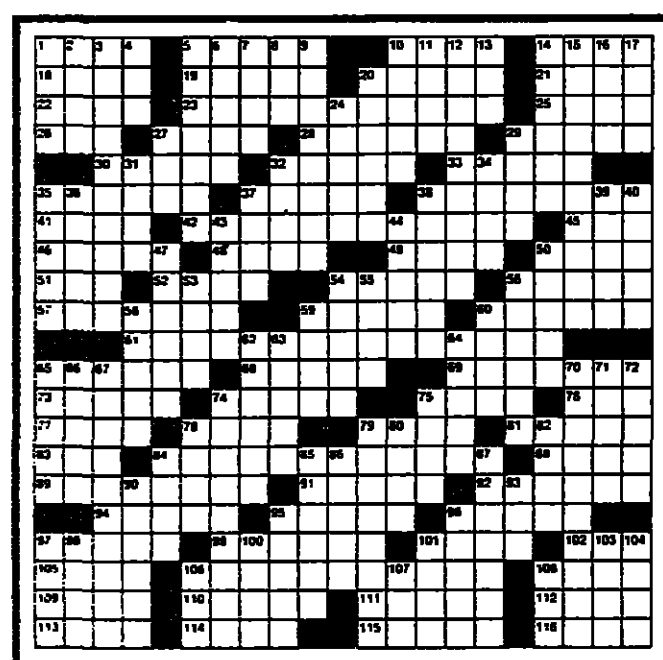
Cynics say migraine underlines the unwritten rule that the less doctors know about a condition, the more drugs/therapies there are to treat it. But Lewis Carroll, who wrote his own experiences of migraine into Alice, might have welcomed today's extended marketplace. Tweedledum certainly would have done — The Guardian.

# WEEKEND CROSSWORD

AND THEY'RE OFF!  
(By Robert Hudson)

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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Little girl searched around ground cover for over an hour until she found a coveted four-leaf clover.
2. Two pagodas, previously never successful, fought each other. Finally, one was seen.
3. In the last net ever over if the fat old diva loses her voice?
4. Listen for footsteps of footpads in all deserted streets.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. RDVL LTHJS CESDKDEJ BOXWTCOP WTX  
FAO WDXIF FDCO ZOWTXO ABSO KXTRP ZL  
BRVVDJS XEZZDFI THF TW JOR AEF.

—By Earl Ireland

2. AE KCNP ACQQ KNLGM DECPID RS BFL  
DRLSD. DBLSD RS BFL DBCNPD. CGM  
DBTSD CB ACQE DFTSD BNQQ DFL  
NPTSD.

—By Deane B. McGee

3. UNLIKELY KRISKROWD HSSWTIWA  
DRAW. XEWG TDNEEDWA NG CHSO NE  
CRSUSW CLRYI END IXN.

—By Ed Huddleston

4. W AELE SLOHC CNGWGN STOC TWB EN  
SNACKGOGONE.

—By Barbara J. Euse

Diagramless

1 Across: A small, light-colored bird, often found in flocks.  
2 Across: A type of fish, often found in the sea.  
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Minister of Labour Khaled Ghazawi (right) Wednesday meets with visiting International Labour Organisation officials headed by Shukri Dajani (second from right) (Petra photo)

## ILO discusses programmes for Jordan, occupied territories

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has drawn up separate assistance and cooperation programmes to be implemented in Jordan and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a senior ILO official said Wednesday.

Shukri Dajani, who is visiting Jordan at the head of a delegation from the Geneva-based ILO, met with Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi to discuss the Jordan programme, which involves assistance in informatics, occupational safety and health hazards.

The organisation will also help the government draft a new labour law.

The ILO will be offering training for Ministry of Labour personnel in employment practices and labour inspections and will also provide scholarships for some of them. Mr. Dajani, deputy director of the Arab Affairs Department of the ILO, told the Jordan Times.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Mr. Dajani as saying that the ILO, in cooperation with the National Committee on Women's Affairs, is planning to hold a regional seminar in September to discuss problems facing Arab working women.

Mr. Dajani, who arrived here Tuesday along with Lee Swepton, another senior ILO official, said the delegation and Mr. Ghazawi discussed Jordan-ILO relations and

cooperation in various fields.

Also reviewed were the labour situation in the occupied territories and Israel's treatment of Palestinian workers.

Later in the day, the ILO team met with a delegation representing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headed by Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi, a member of the executive committee and head of the Economic Planning Department.

"We listened to their views on the labour situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip," said Mr. Dajani, adding that the ILO had drawn up an "assistance programme" for the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

He declined to detail the nature of the assistance saying that the issue was to be discussed during a meeting on Thursday with Mr. Ghazawi, attended by representatives of workers and employees as well as the PLO.

Omar Khatib, deputy chief of the Palestinian embassy here, who attended Wednesday's talks, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that the PLO had agreed to abide by ILO conventions when it takes over the Gaza Strip and Jericho under the Sept. 13 autonomy accord signed with Israel.

The PLO enjoys observer status at the ILO. PLO officials said they presented a report to the ILO on Israeli "violations of the

labour rights of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Western human rights organisations have severely criticised Israel's treatment of Palestinian workers, who are a source of cheap labour for the Jewish state's agriculture and construction sector.

In the absence of an economic/industrial infrastructure in the occupied territories, the Palestinians there have little choice but to opt for jobs in Israel, where they are paid less than half of the average wages paid to Israelis and have no health insurance or social security benefits.

Up to 120,000 Palestinians used to work in Israel until December 1992, when the occupation authorities imposed strict measures that cut their number to less than half against Israel.

Israel imposed a blanket ban on Palestinian workers entering its territory following Friday's massacre of Muslim worshippers at Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque.

For the first time since occupying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967, Israel has agreed to allow an ILO delegation to visit the occupied territories. The ILO hopes to make the visit in April, Mr. Dajani said.

The ILO delegation met with the PLO leadership in Tunis at the outset of its current Middle East visit, described as a fact-finding mission.

## Smugglers arrested after shooting 2 badia officers

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two Badia patrol officers Tuesday were attacked by a group of smugglers in Al Manshih area of Al Muwjaqer, according to Civil Defence (CDD) and Customs Department reports.

The reports said badia patrols became suspicious of a truck that was transporting live sheep and had crossed into Jordanian territory from Saudi Arabia.

When the officers stopped the truck and searched it, they discovered cigarette cartons hidden in different parts of the truck, the report said.

A customs official told the Jordan Times that the smugglers started shooting at the officers and injured two of them. Then they set their truck on fire in an effort to destroy the cigarettes, added the official.

The injured officers, aged 40 and 18, were rescued by the Civil Defence who received a report that gunshots were heard in that area and a fire was noticed.

When the CDD attempted to extinguish the fire, the smugglers attacked the fire engine, cutting the water hose, breaking the engine's front window and damaging other parts of the vehicle.

The smugglers also attacked the CDD ambulance that arrived to transport the injured and cut the wires of the radio transmitter before they were arrested.

The customs department official gave no details of the

nationality or the number of smugglers, but said they were investigating the incident.

### 4 die of food poisoning

Three Mafrag children and their 40-year-old mother Tuesday died of food poisoning, and a 5-year-old was listed in critical condition, according to police and hospital reports.

The mother, Rosa Ayed, and her children Jamileh (4), Jamal (3), Mohammad (1) and Joulous (5) were discovered by the children's father who had left his home in the pre-dawn and returned at about 8:00 a.m., the reports said.

Aref Ayed told police he left the house early to get fodder for his sheep and when he returned home he found four members of his family dead.

In his testimony to police, Mr. Ayed said he had no knowledge of what might have caused their death.

The victims were taken to Mafrag Military Hospital where four of them were pronounced dead on arrival and the fifth was listed in critical condition.

A hospital official told the Jordan Times that it is possible that the family had eaten leftovers that had been refrigerated.

The official said the only survivor, Joulous, is in intensive care and is expected to survive.

As of Wednesday evening, police were unable to determine the cause of death, or the kind of food that the family might have eaten.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### King congratulates Bulgaria

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable of good wishes to Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev on his country's national day. He wished Mr. Zhelev continued good health and happiness, and further progress and prosperity for the Bulgarian people.

### Citizen receives PSD award

AMMAN (Petra) — Citizen Jadaan Faraj Wednesday was honoured by Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan for assisting police in apprehending a criminal. Lt. Gen. Udwan presented Mr. Faraj with a certificate of merit, saying that the police always seek the cooperation of the public in ensuring the security and stability of local communities.

### JEA to participate in Cairo meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) board Wednesday decided to take part in the meeting of the higher council of the Arab Engineers Federation. The meeting, which is to take place in Cairo on March 30, will discuss the exploitation of the Arab World's mineral resources.

### Banking association chief reelected

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly of the Association of Banks in Jordan (ABJ) Tuesday reelected Zuhair Khouri, the chairman of the Housing Bank, as chairman of the new ABJ board of directors. General Manager of the Arab Banking Corporation Jawad Hadid was elected as deputy chairman of the ABJ.

## House expected to endorse draft tenancy legislation

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday is expected to endorse a draft temporary law on tenancy after approving 10 articles of the draft legislation in a debate that has so far extended over three sessions.

Legislators emphasised the importance of protecting tenants who, according to many lawmakers, constitute three-thirds of the society.

Lawmakers, who Sunday voted in favour of approving an article of the draft law which gives tenants the right to remain in their rented properties despite time limits agreed upon in the lease, continued their efforts to maintain protection that the draft law gives to tenants.

"It's our duty to see that justice is carried out to the fullest," said Deputy Abdul Karim Al Dughni, rapporteur of the Judiciary Committee, when discussing Article 6 of the draft law.

The article states that tenants could be evicted if

landlords wanted to expand their properties. But it stipulates that tenants must receive compensations and reserve their right to return when the expansion is completed.

Deputy Ali Abul Ragheb commented that the draft law "has become a law on tenants who have become owners" in response to bids that he said exaggerated protection of tenants.

Some lawmakers proposed that courts determine the amount of compensation tenants should receive when they are evicted, but Minister of Justice Taher Hikmat said that such a requirement would lead to many "troublesome lawsuits." He proposed that the House endorse the article which sets the amount of compensation at 10 times the annual rent.

Deputies also approved Article 8 of the draft law which excludes non-Jordanians from the right to remain in their rented property after the end of the lease.

Article 5 of the draft legisla-

tion, which was approved after a lengthy and heated debate, stipulates that tenants can remain in the rented properties despite time limits agreed upon in the lease.

According to Article 9, however, owners are allowed to evict tenants for expansion only if the building is 40 years old and if 12 years have elapsed since the signing of the lease.

Other articles in the law say tenants can be evicted if it is established that the property is unsafe to use.

The draft law, which some deputies described as one of the most important and sensitive pieces of legislation, has been in effect as a temporary law since 1982. After it is approved by the House, the draft law will be referred to the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) which can amend it and send it back to the House.

The draft legislation will then be sent to His Majesty King Hussein, who can either reject it, amend it or sign it into law.

## Doctors report medicine, equipment urgently needed for massacre victims

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two Jordanian doctors who were members of a medical team that visited the occupied territories earlier this week to provide medical care to the wounded in the Hebron massacre said there are sufficient doctors to treat the victims but medicines and medical equipment at Palestinian hospitals are seriously lacking.

Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Ishaq Maraga said that the two doctors have reported that the Palestinian hospitals were also short of funds to cover treatment costs.

Dr. Maraga said that the JMA was making arrangements for medicines and medical equipment to be transported to the West Bank and was awaiting the final lists of materials needed so that he can submit a formal request to the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to work out an agreement for such a shipment with

the Israeli authorities.

He said that the medicines and medical equipment ready for transport came as a gift from the private pharmacies, pharmaceutical companies and the Ministry of Health.

He said the association is in constant contact with its Jerusalem office to keep abreast of developments at hospitals there, particularly if any of the wounded would need to be brought to Jordan for care.

Meanwhile, the fund-raising efforts for the victims of the massacre of more than 60 Palestinians last Friday was continuing in Jordan.

The Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) Wednesday announced the donation of JD10,000 to the families of the dead and injured people.

The Amman Chamber of Industry also announced Wednesday that it has embarked on a large-scale campaign to raise funds for this cause from the various industrial institutions in the Kingdom.

## Labour dispute ends

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour Wednesday announced the settlement of a labour dispute between the management of the Danish Dairy Products Company and company employees. This defusing a threat by the workers to strike.

A ministry statement said that the management and the workers' committee Wednesday signed a deal under which the employees will receive a pay raise of JD10 per month if their wages are less than JD150; JD7 for those above the JD150 wage; and JD5 for those with salaries ranging between JD200 and JD300.

The raise will be retroactive from the beginning of 1994, said the statement.

Under the agreement, the management will also provide health insurance covering 100% of all medical expenses incurred by the workers, and 50 per cent of medical cost for their families.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

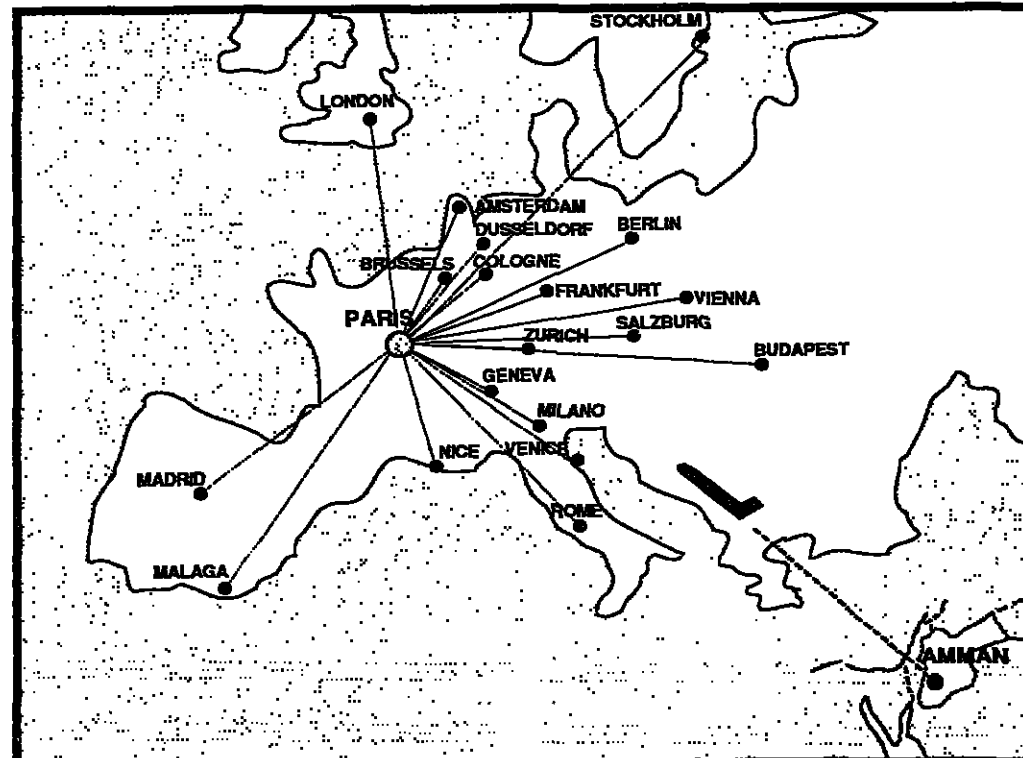
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Ayasrah at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by artist Shaker Al Girmil entitled "Studies in the Jordanian Environment" at the Phoenix Art Gallery for Art and Culture.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by several artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian products at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works of art by the Arab Centre for Vocational Training at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Riham Ghassib at The Gallery Inter-Continental Hotel.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Jalal Ariqat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays).
- ★ Art exhibition by several artists at the Alfa Art Gallery (8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- ★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhais (Tel. 720902).
- ★ "Permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Beirut Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jebel Amman (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

### FILM

- ★ Film entitled "The Outlaw Josey Wales" at the American Center on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. (135 minutes).

### MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

- ★ Musical performance by Al Takht band of Arab songs on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.



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PONJOUR VISIT FRANCE

## JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary Issue No. 4/1994

Drawing of March 2, 1994

### Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. <b>24591</b> Wins JD 40,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 3,000 each wins JD 300 <b>24592 24501 24691 25591 34591</b> <b>24590 24581 24491 23591 14591</b>
Holder of ticket No. <b>02403</b> Wins JD 10,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,000 each wins JD 100 <b>02404 02413 02503 03403 12403</b> <b>02402 02493 02303 01403 92403</b>
Holder of ticket No. <b>79091</b> Wins JD 5,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 700 each wins JD 70 <b>79090 79001 79191 70091 89091</b> <b>79092 79081 79991 78091 69091</b>
Holder of ticket No. <b>81770</b> Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40 <b>81771 81780 81870 82770 91770</b> <b>81772 81760 81670 80770 71770</b>
Holder of ticket No. <b>10935</b> Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 250 each wins JD 25 <b>10936 10945 10035 11935 20935</b> <b>10934 10925 10835 19935 00935</b>
Holder of ticket No. <b>55051</b> Wins JD 2,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 <b>55052 55061 55151 56051 65051</b> <b>55050 55041 55951 54051 45051</b>
Holder of ticket No. <b>84755</b> Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10 <b>84756 84765 84855 85755 94755</b> <b>84754 84745 84655 83755 74755</b>
Holder of ticket No. <b>95868</b> Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 50 each wins JD 5 <b>95869 95878 95968 96868 05868</b> <b>95867 95858 95768 94868 85868</b>

Ticket numbers <b>99826 26601 76387 08209 87953</b>	Win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers <b>34529 84613 11431 82279 79719</b>	Win JD 100 each

### TICKETS ENDING WITH

<b>4473 2395 1791 3964</b> Win JD 60 each	<b>0519 6294 3250</b> Win JD 30 each
<b>881 665</b> Win JD 15 each	<b>0548 0661</b> Win JD 10 each
<b>56</b> Win JD 6 each	10,000 ticket ending with <b>9</b> Win JD 3 each

### COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

40 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in <b>766 449 314 005</b>	Win JD 10
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Winners of the grand prizes in the special issue number 3/1994 of February 17, 1994

<b>Amr Al Masoud</b> Amman - Old Engineer Full prize first prize JD 40,000	<b>Walid Albulbul</b> Amman - Employee Half second prize JD 2,500	<b>Mohammad Alwan</b> Wadi Al-Muwaqer Half second prize JD 2,500	<b>Umar Al Samir-Sayid</b> Amman - Employee Full prize first prize JD 3,500	<b>Tawfik Hage</b> Amman - Manager Half fourth prize JD 1,500	<b>Mustafa Mohammad</b> Amman - Manager Half fourth prize JD 1,500	<b>Farouk Albulbul</b> Irbid - Engineer Full prize first prize JD 2,500
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Next Draw takes place on March 17, 1994

First biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters











## De Klerk welcomes Buthelezi's tentative offer on poll registration

CAPE TOWN (R) — President F.W. De Klerk Wednesday welcomed Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's tentative offer to register for South Africa's first all-race election in April.

But Mr. De Klerk, responding to questions in parliament, said he foresaw problems with a call for international mediation that was part of Mr. Buthelezi's agreement with his main black rival African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela Tuesday.

"I am very pleased the meeting took place, though I think it was very late in coming. My attitude with regard to (international mediation) is that...time is of the essence. If time is of the essence I foresee some problems with the concept of mediation."

Mr. De Klerk said negotiations with right-wing black and white parties would not halt if parliament adopted pro-federal constitutional amendments Wednesday and ended its sitting.

"We would be willing and able to negotiate from tomorrow in any effort to reach further agreement which might ensure all inclusiveness in the full electoral process."

"I think it is possible for us in the next week or two to make some progress."

Mr. De Klerk said the April 26-28 election would take place as scheduled and warned that the government would use all the force at its disposal to prevent any disruption.

"From the government's side the security forces will be used, the law will be applied...to ensure that the election is free and fair."

"The government will use everything at its disposal to ensure that law and order will be maintained and the elections will go ahead as planned and they will be free and fair," he said.

Right-wing white radicals have threatened civil war if their demands for an independent Afrikaner homeland are not heeded.

Mr. De Klerk said the government had a contingency plan to ensure that voting took place in the Bophuthatswana and KwaZulu black homelands, both members of the autonomy-seeking Freedom Alliance of white and black conservatives including Inkatha.

"I will ensure the maintenance of law and order and will use all the facilities available to

the state to that effect, according to the threat and according to the situation as it develops."

Earlier, the government's chief democracy negotiator Roelf Meyer said on independent Radio 702 he did not think international mediation was necessary.

"International mediation, what does it mean...If it means that the parties have to get together under international mediation, I don't think there's a need for that. We are able to talk to each other."

Freedom Alliance Chairman Rowan Cronje said Tuesday night he was trying to arrange a meeting of Alliance negotiators to discuss the Mandela-Buthelezi deal. A time and venue have still to be arranged.

Negotiators pondered their next moves in South Africa after Mr. Buthelezi made a conditional last-minute offer to sign up for the country's historic first all-race elections in April.

The Zulu leader said after a rare meeting with Mr. Mandela Tuesday that he would consider provisionally registering his Inkatha Freedom Party but would keep open his option of boycotting the poll.

Political parties have until Friday to register and five

more days to nominate candidates for the first vote in South African history in which all races can cast ballots.

Mr. Buthelezi and his main black rival, Mr. Mandela, said in a statement they had "agreed to explore with their principals the possibility of international mediation."

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini is demanding a sovereign state.

Mr. Mandela, whose ANC is almost certain to win an overall majority, said he was encouraged by his first meeting in nine months with Mr. Buthelezi.

"We have laid a solid foundation not only for further progress but for possible breakthroughs," he said.

But Mr. Buthelezi, asked if he was closer to taking part in the elections, replied: "Not at all. I am not close at all."

A Democratic Party legislator said Mr. Buthelezi appeared to be playing for time and hoping the election would be postponed.

Mr. Buthelezi said Wednesday the position of King Goodwill in post-apartheid South Africa had not yet been resolved and called for a separate Zulu kingdom.

## Rutskoi urges reconciliation

MOSCOW (R) — Former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, freed from jail last week under an amnesty, defended October's armed uprising against Boris Yeltsin Wednesday but called on Russians to bury hatred.

In his first statement since his release from Moscow's Lefortovo Prison, he attacked the "irresponsible windbags and dishonest politicians and journalists" who, he said, had twisted the truth over autumn clashes in Moscow that claimed 140 lives.

Radical politicians and some senior businessmen have suggested Mr. Rutskoi's release could set Russia back on the path to civil conflict, pointing to May Day as a possible flash-point.

President Boris Yeltsin warned the arrested prisoners Tuesday they would be immediately re-arrested if they tried to destabilise the situation in the country.

"Think it over," Mr. Rutskoi said in a statement addressed to the citizens of Russia and the new Duma legislature, which had annexed him. "Do not whip up hysteria. Hasn't enough blood been shed for you?"

Mr. Rutskoi made no reference to any presidential ambitions. But aides have said they expect him to run in elections due in 1996 and the general tone of his comments suggested he sought a future national role.

Mr. Rutskoi walked free Saturday along with six others

who led an uprising two weeks after the president had cast aside the constitution and abolished Russia's Soviet-era parliament.

Armed parliament supporters broke out of encirclement in the White House on Oct. 3 and, on Mr. Rutskoi's urging, stormed the mayor's offices and Ostankino Television Centre.

Mr. Yeltsin, long estranged from his vice-president, crushed the rebellion the following day using tanks.

"In the autumn of last year, all those in the House of Soviets (White House) and on the barricades fulfilled their civic and patriotic duty to the last, defending a young parliamentary culture, democracy, the constitution," Mr. Rutskoi said.

Many of them paid the highest price — their lives — saving the honour and dignity of the Russian state, staving off a slide into dictatorship. They left this life victors and their names will be written into the pages of the history of our motherland for centuries," the signed statement said.

The release of Mr. Rutskoi, an air force general, was a blow to Mr. Yeltsin who had tried until the last to have it postponed.

Mr. Rutskoi took one oblique shot at Mr. Yeltsin, criticising those who "walk over the constitution of the state for the sake of their own personal power."

In addressing his statement to the Duma, Mr. Rutskoi

appeared to accept the legitimacy of the legislative body Mr. Yeltsin created to replace the old parliament.

"I bow to the laws of my country, the will of the people's representatives," he said.

Mr. Rutskoi, who was sworn in as acting president by the old parliament during the two-week confrontation with Mr. Yeltsin, withdrew to a country house shortly after his release.

Former parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, arrested along with Mr. Rutskoi on Oct. 4 and released moments before him, has declared he is leaving politics.

But ITAR-TASS news agency said Mr. Khasbulatov was given a rousing welcome by thousands when he returned to visit his mother in his home town, Grozny, in the rebel Russian Republic of Chechnya in the north Caucasus.

Chechnya, which has unilaterally declared independence under its maverick President Dzhokhar Dudaev, has suffered dire economic problems since its 1991 break with Moscow. But Gen. Dudaev has kept all opposition at bay.

Meanwhile, the 1991 Soviet coup trial has come to an ignominious end, closing the final chapter of an episode which had threatened a new cold war but ended up hastening the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Russian Supreme Court, bowing to an amnesty ordered by parliament, Tuesday dropped treason charges against the men.

## Deneuve appointed number 2 on Cannes jury

PARIS (R) — French actress Catherine Deneuve has been appointed vice-president of the jury at this year's Cannes Film Festival, organisers said Tuesday. It will be the first time the 50-year-old Deneuve, a symbol of French cinema after a career spanning more than three decades, will sit on the jury for the May 12-23 festival that will be headed this year by U.S. actor-director Clint Eastwood. "We believe she deserves an extra jewel in her crown. The reason for choosing her is the particular admiration we French have for this great lady," a spokeswoman for the organisers said.

## Bobbit cases inspires male chastity belt

ROME (R) — Rome sculptor Angelo Camerino, who made headlines four years ago by exhibiting sculptures of female chastity belts, is cashing in on a male version in the wake of the John and Lorena Bobbitt case. Mr. Camerino Tuesday said he had sold three male chastity belts to an American living in Rome. The belts are stainless steel and lined with leather. "He asked me for the belts, which he wanted to send to some friends in New York," the sculptor said. "He told me they would wear them at night so that their wives can't do a Mrs. Bobbitt." Lorena Bobbitt, freed Monday from a mental hospital, was acquitted by reason of insanity on Jan. 21 on a charge of slashing off her sleeping husband's penis. Mr. Camerino said the male belts cost 2.5 million lire (\$1,500) each but he had sold the client the third for a cut price of two million (\$1,200).

## Spielberg: Time for German Nazi guilt is over

FRANKFURT (R) — Holocaust film Schindler's List was getting its German premiere Tuesday amid debate on why Oskar Schindler's deeds were unrecognised for so long before and why others did not act as he did to save Jewish lives. But U.S. director-producer Steven Spielberg refused to see his film as a reminder of guilt for today's Germans or as especially poignant in view of a recent upsurge in neo-Nazi racist attacks, many of them fatal. Spielberg, many of whose older relatives were killed in the Holocaust, said a small violent fringe should not be seen as representing Germans as a whole, or even as real Nazis. "I'm not sure the thugs who call themselves neo-Nazis really know what their beliefs are," he told a news conference. "It just gives them a platform for hatred." "I would feel it is time in Germany for this generation to teach their children without showing guilt, and knowing that education is the way to stop another Holocaust happening." Spielberg's film tells the story of Schindler, a Nazi war profiteer who saved about 1,200 Jews from the gas chambers. The American producer insisted on holding the German premiere in Frankfurt as a tribute to his subject, who spent the last years of his life here, and died in poverty in 1974.

## Altman's fashion satire to start shooting in Paris

PARIS (R) — When the curtain goes up on Paris ready-to-wear shows, Hollywood's master ironist Robert Altman will have his camera poised for his next satirical swipe — this time at the cut-throat, shallow fashion crowd. Paris salons are buzzing with gossip about Pret-A-Porter (ready-to-wear), the star-studded, Nashville-style portrait of the fashion industry, which director Altman is filming during and around the Paris autumn winter collections that open Friday. Although he swears he comes to praise fashion, not bury it, Pret-A-Porter is expected to be just as biting as The Player, Altman's send-up of greedy Hollywood power brokers. Yet models, designers and fashion journalists have been clamouring for a role, even if it is at their own expense. The film, an ambition of Altman's for nearly 10 years, will be shot in pseudo-documentary style, mixing actors with real figures from the fashion world. Filming begins at designer Sonia Rykiel's show Sunday. A tall man with piercing eyes and a goatee that make him resemble Wild Bill Hickok, Altman has been snooping around Paris collections for the last year.

## Koreas squabble over fine print ahead of meeting

SEOUL (R) — North and South Korea, due to resume talks Thursday after an acrimonious four-month break, squabbled Wednesday over the terms for the meeting at the cold war border to discuss the North's nuclear programme.

Song Yong-Dae, Seoul's chief delegate, cautiously welcomed North Korea's decision to accept an invitation to a meeting at Panmunjom, the village that straddles the frontier.

But he told the North that progress over the nuclear impasse would be made only if it dropped preconditions that fouled earlier attempts to return to the negotiating table.

"There will be progress in the working-level contacts (Thursday) if the Northern side does not present earlier preconditions such as 'an end to nuclear war exercises' and the 'abandonment of Seoul's international cooperation system'," Mr. Song told reporters.

He was referring to the guarded message from Pyongyang, delivered Tuesday, accepting the invitation to Panmunjom.

North Korea said it would attend the meeting but called for an end to South Korea's annual military exercises with its U.S. allies, mainly war games codenamed Team Spirit that are scheduled for later this month.

It also demanded that Seoul divorce itself from international efforts, led by the United States, to persuade Pyongyang to open suspect nuclear plants to inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency. "We are seeing more of the

brinkmanship which the North and South always play ahead of talks but I think the meeting will go ahead," said a Western diplomat.

"But we should not expect any major breakthrough, we should simply be happy that North and South are starting the talks process again."

The meeting will focus on a proposed exchange of envoys charged with ending the row over inspection of the North's nuclear sites.

The two have held three rounds of border talks to discuss the envoy exchange. But the North broke off contacts last November after the South rejected its call to end military exercises with the United States.

An announcement on a suspension of this year's Team Spirit manoeuvres is expected from the Seoul Defence Ministry Thursday but North Korea wants other, smaller-scale exercises to be scrapped as well.

The North-South meeting became possible after Pyongyang agreed Friday in talks with the United States to allow international inspections of nuclear facilities, designed to allay Western fears the North is trying to develop nuclear weapons.

In return, the United States committed itself to cancelling Team Spirit and scheduled a third round of high-level U.S.-North Korean talks later in March.

Six IAEA inspectors arrived in North Korea Tuesday for a two-week visit to check nuclear sites for any evidence that radioactive fuel has been diverted to build atomic weapons.

## Blast cuts Armenia's rail links with other states

TBILISI (R) — An explosion on a railway bridge has cut the only railway line linking the former Soviet Republic of Armenia to the rest of the world, Georgian officials said Wednesday.

The officials, at the Georgian Interior Ministry, said it would take three or four days to repair the 70-member (230-foot) bridge, some 60 kilometres south of Tbilisi.

"The explosion was very strong and it damaged the bridge very badly," one official said. "It will take at least three or four days to restore communications. It is obviously a terrorist act."

A series of explosions in Georgia have cut rail, road and gas pipeline links between landlocked Armenia and the rest of the former Soviet Union.

Armenia blames ethnic Azeris living in Georgia for the blasts. Azerbaijan, locked in conflict with Armenia over the Armenian-populated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, denies it is responsible.

Meanwhile, Moscow sent a top general to Armenia and Azerbaijan to secure a Russian-mediated ceasefire which began Tuesday in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave and seemed to be hold-

ing despite minor violations. Karabakh officials said Azeri forces shelled their positions overnight but a military spokesman in Baku denied this and said "all was quiet."

Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency said Colonel-General Georgy Kondratyev would hold talks with Armenian and Azerbaijani officials on implementation of a peace plan mediated by Moscow's Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on Feb. 18.

The plan envisaged a ceasefire, which came into effect Tuesday, and a subsequent withdrawal of troops to create safety zones. A joint staff would be deployed in the area, consisting of officers from Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Karabakh.

Gen. Kondratyev, deputy defence minister, told TASS the joint staff would consist of 250 officers, 69 of them Russian.

The territory, with a majority Armenian population, was placed under a Russian-led

thousand of people have been killed and dozens of thousands forced to flee their homes in six years of warfare in which Karabakh Armenians have seized big chunks of the Azeri territory proper.

## Vietnam, U.S. make good start to new relationship

HANOI (R) — Vietnam and the United States have made a good start to their new relationship with "positive" talks on complex financial claims and opening diplomatic missions, sources close to the negotiations said Wednesday.

"Talks on both questions have been positive," one source said, adding that discussions on opening liaison offices in Hanoi and Washington were continuing.

The negotiations — together with what the U.S. State De-

partment called a "productive exchange of views" in New York on human rights — marked a promised start to a new chapter in relations which opened when the United States scrapped a 30-year economic embargo against Hanoi a month ago.

Senior officials ended a first round of talks in Hanoi Tuesday on U.S. and Vietnamese claims to \$520 million in property and bank accounts dating from the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

## Houston, Sting and Aladdin take Grammy Awards

NEW YORK (R) — Whitney Houston to Grammys: *It Will Always Love You*.

Houston and the soundtrack for her film *The Bodyguard* won top honours at the 36th annual Grammy Music Awards Tuesday in a show that mixed glitter with unexpected controversy.

Houston was named Best Female Vocalist at the U.S. music industry's top awards for her monster hit single *I Will Always Love You*, the lead song from the film.

The song was also named Record of the Year and The Bodyguard soundtrack album, which has sold a record-tying 11 million copies, was named Album of the Year, pushing aside competition from Billy Joel and Sting. In sales the album is tied with the soundtracks for Saturday Night Fever and Dirty Dancing.

Sting won three awards, including Best Male Vocal and two awards for his album *Ten Summoner's Tales*.

A Whole New World, the theme song from the hit Walt Disney film *Aladdin*, written by Alan Menken and Tim Rice, was named Song of the Year, giving the sound track from the film five awards for the evening.

Billy Joel and Neil Young, both multiple nominees, were shut out from the awards.

The evening was not without controversy, the Irish rock group U2's lead singer Bono used the banned "F" word in accepting an award for Best Alternative Album and the show cut to a commercial before Frank Sinatra could finish accepting his Grammy Living Legend Award.

In accepting the award for Zoetrope, Bono said: "I'd like to give a message to the young people of America. We shall continue to abuse our position and F — up the mainstream."

The banned word was heard on the live television broadcast beamed to millions of homes but was cut out when the programme was beamed to the west coast three hours later. Bono apologised after the programme if he had offend anyone.

Sinatra choked back tears as a star-studded audience of 4,000 gave him a standing ovation.

Acceptance of the Grammy Living Legend Award was cut off when the television broadcast went to a commercial before he finished speaking. The organisers of the award said Sinatra had his own pro-

ducers for the segment and they were the ones who cut to the commercial.

Host Gary Shandling said: "Mr. Sinatra should have been allowed to finish his speech. That was a mistake. This is live television and Mr. Sinatra will cut us off in an hour."

"I just got off the phone with Lorena Bobbitt and she said 'I wouldn't cut off Frank Sinatra,'" he quipped, referring to the woman recently acquitted of malicious wounding for cutting off her husband's penis.

Billy Joel interrupted his performance of the hit song "The River Of Dreams," looked at his watch and said, "valuable advertising time going by. Dollars, dollars, dollars," he smiled, then resumed playing.

Houston opened the awards ceremony at the art deco Radio City Music Hall by singing *I Will Always Love You*, which dominated the charts, radio airwaves and music video stations.

Then she was handed the award by country music star Dolly Parton, who wrote the song in 1974 with what she said was a broken heart until the royalties rolled in.

Rhythm and blues singer Toni Braxton was named Best New Artist and Best Female R&B Vocalist beating out Houston. Dwight Yoakum won Best Country Male Vocal for *Ain't That Lonely Yet*.

Natalie Cole won the Jazz Vocalist Award, two years after she won major awards for her *Unforgettable* album. Rock singer Meat Loaf made a comeback by winning Best Rock Vocal for *If I Do Anything For Love (But I Won't Do That)*.

The best classical album went to Pierre Boulez for conducting the Chicago Symphony in Bartok's *The Wooden Prince*. Singer Tony Bennett posted the major upset of the night when his album *Steppin' Out* beat out Barbra Streisand's *Back To Broadway* for the Best Traditional Pop Vocal Performance Award.

I don't know what Barbra's gonna say about this," Bennett said with a laugh while accepting it.

who was fired by the Metropolitan Opera after a recent temper tantrum, did not show up to accept the Best Opera Recording Award for Handel: *Semele*, which she shared with several other soloists.



Singer Whitney Houston cheers over her Grammy Award Tuesday. Her soundtrack to the movie *The Bodyguard*, with the single *I Will Always Love You*, won awards for Record Of the Year and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance (AFP photo)



Sting holds one of the three Grammy Awards he won at the Annual Grammy Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York (AFP photo)

## 1 dead, 4 hurt in Australia crime office blast

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — A policeman was killed and five people injured Wednesday when a bomb was passed through security checks and tore through the Adelaide office of Australia's National Crime Authority (NCA).

One of the injured men, who police said was an NCA lawyer in his mid-30s, was in serious condition after undergoing surgery.

Police said the bomb through the 12th floor office of the NCA, a controversial agency that fights organised crime. Glass and debris rained into the street as the blast shook the central business district of Adelaide, the normally quiet capital of South Australia, shortly after 9 a.m. local time.

Four others were treated in hospital and released after treatment for various injuries including a broken wrist and smoke inhalation from a fire set off by the bomb.

"This is a wicked and evil thing that has been done," Prime Minister Paul Keating told reporters. "This is the worst kind of thing that I could imagine."

"This is something which is completely out of the character of this country. This is something that this community shouldn't tolerate and as a government we won't be."

Police said they had no warning of the blast and as far as was known no threats had been made.

The dead policeman was identified as Detective Sergeant Geoffrey Leigh Bowen, 36, a father of two young children.

"We have no idea what sort of a device it was. Suffice it to say it was certainly a bomb," a police spokesman said.

NCA officials said that after the blast they had boosted security measures at all NCA offices in Australia. Police said a task force of 40 detectives had been assigned to the case.

Police would not comment on the how the bomb was delivered or the nature of the device, although a spokesman said the NCA's scanners were designed to detect ferrous materials.



## Knicks end losing streak

SACRAMENTO, California (R) — Patrick Ewing scored 28 points and pulled down a season-high 21 rebounds as the New York Knicks snapped a four-game losing streak with a 100-88 victory over the Sacramento Kings Tuesday.

Greg Anthony scored 18 points and John Starks added 16 for New York, which salvaged the finale of a four-game road trip and ended their longest regular-season slide since Pat Riley became head coach to start the 1991-92 season.

Mitch Richmond scored 29 points and Lionel Simmons added 18 for Sacramento.

In Houston, rookie Sam Cassell scored all of his career-high 16 points in a stretch bridging the third and fourth quarters as the Houston Rockets defeated Orlando, 97-85, and snapped the Magic's franchise-record seven-game winning streak.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 26 points and blocked six shots, outplaying Magic centre Shaquille O'Neal, who had 19 points and 13 rebounds.

O'Neal made just 3-of-12 free throws as Orlando was 14-of-27 from the line.

In Atlanta, Danny Manning and Stacey Augmon scored 21 points apiece and the Atlanta Hawks survived the second-worst scoring fourth quarter in NBA history, holding on for a 102-99 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Atlanta was outscored 30-8 in the fourth quarter and nearly blew a 94-69 lead.

Chuck Person's three-pointer with 30 seconds left pulled Minnesota within 100-99 but Manning scored a basket with eight seconds left.

In Seattle, Vincent Askew had seven of his career-high 17 points in a key fourth quarter run and Kendall Gill scored 21 to power the Seattle SuperSonics to a 122-96 triumph over the Charlotte Hornets.

The Sonics have won three straight and four of their last

five games after a three-game losing streak. Seattle improved to a league-best 40-14.

Hersey Hawkins had 26 points and Frank Brickowski netted 20 for the Hornets, who suffered their sixth straight loss and 14 of their last 15.

At New Jersey, Chris Morris scored 23 points and led a third-quarter charge that lifted the New Jersey Nets to a 108-98 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

Morris sank six three-pointers, breaking a club record he shared with five players.

Derrick Coleman had 25 points, 15 rebounds and seven blocks in little more than three quarters for the Nets, who have won eight of their last 10 games.

At Golden State, Latrell Sprewell scored nine of his 27 points in the fourth quarter to rally the Golden Warriors to a 114-109 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Golden State rallied from a 14-point deficit entering the fourth quarter to end a season-high three-game winning streak.

Rookie Chris Webber, celebrating his 21st birthday, collected 26 points and 18 rebounds for Golden State.

In Indiana, Rick Smith scored 24 points and Reggie Miller added 20 to lift the Indiana Pacers to a 106-94 triumph over the Portland Trail Blazers.

The victory was the 13th in 15 games for Indiana and snapped Portland's season-high six-game win streak.

In Milwaukee, Glen Rice celebrated the signing of a new contract by scoring 25 points as the Miami Heat defeated the Milwaukee Bucks, 110-102, for their fifth straight victory.

In Philadelphia, Previs Ellison had 25 points and 12 rebounds and Tom Gugliotta added 19 points and 12 rebounds to help the Washington Bullets snap a six-game losing streak with a 109-103 triumph over the Philadelphia 76ers.

## Kankkunen takes lead in Portuguese Rally

LOUSADA, Portugal (R) — Finnish world champion Jari Kankkunen shot back into the lead of the Portuguese Rally Wednesday when Frenchman Francois Delecours was forced to stop for repairs after engine problems with his Ford Escort.

Delecours was forced to stop for lengthy repairs during Wednesday's second special stage at Lousada in northern Portugal after his engine overheated and Ford team officials said he might have to retire.

Kankkunen, in a Toyota

Celica, briefly took the lead from Delecours Tuesday's first leg of the four-day rally, but the Frenchman finished four seconds ahead of him.

Although Kankkunen snatched the lead again from Delecours Wednesday, the Finn remains closely followed by Italian Massimo Biasion in another Ford Escort only one second behind.

Delecours' repair stop cost him at least 20 minutes and commentators said that even if he stayed in the rally he had lost virtually all chance of winning it.

## Courier upset, Agassi advances in California

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — Unseeded Australian Patrick Rafter upset second-seeded and defending champion Jim Courier of the United States 7-6 (7-2) 6-2 in the second round of the \$1,720,000 Champions Cup Tuesday.

Top-seeded Pete Sampras of the United States played nearly perfect and beat Spain's Emilio Sanchez 6-1 6-1 in 62 minutes in his second-round match at the 56-player, hard court tournament, where the top eight seeded players receive first-round byes.

Unseeded Andre Agassi of the United States, fresh from taking the title in Scottsdale, Arizona, eliminated compatriot Richey Reneberg 6-3 6-3.

Seventh-seeded Todd Martin of the United States used his powerful first serve, which delivered eight aces and 10 service winners, to hold off Marcos Ondruska of South Africa 6-0 4-6 6-1 in one hour, 55 minutes in a second-round match.

First-round winners included tenth-seeded Petr Korda of the Czech Republic, eleventh-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland, 13th-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, and fifteenth-seeded American Malivai Washington. Third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden was to play his first match late Wednesday.

Rafter, 49 in the world,

belted 10 aces on his first serve and gave the third-ranked Courier trouble with his high-kicking second serve through the match.

Rafter and Courier each held serve in the first set to force a tiebreak. The Australian took a 3-2 lead and held it by hitting a service winner for 4-2 and an ace for 5-2, and then winning the last two points on errors from Courier's normally reliable forehand.

Rafter, who defeated Sampras last summer, broke Courier for 3-1 in the second set and then again in the final game of the match, as Courier had difficulty finding the mark with his service returns.

Courier, who won titles here in 1993 and 1991 and maintains a home near the tournament, said that he never played his way into the match.

"I played a couple bad points in the tiebreaker and the first set was gone, and Pat played a tight second set," Courier said. "He served really well and I couldn't get my return going. I was prepared to play, but I was unable to work my way into the match."

Sampras, first in the world, served seven aces and repeatedly handcuffed the 46th-ranked Sanchez with his second serve on the way to a routine victory over the clay-court specialist.

## China says Olympic spat shows 'colonial prejudice'

BEIJING (R) — The official People's Daily said Wednesday a row in a Winter Olympic speed-skating event last week showed colonial prejudice and the West's refusal to recognise China's new strength.

In an editorial entitled, "Can we be stopped?", the newspaper said China was sick of being treated like a second-class member of the international community and would prove to the world it deserved respect.

"Don't believe us? Wait and see," it vowed.

The dispute broke out in the women's 3,000-metre relay at the Lillehammer games after Chinese silver medalist Zhang

Yanmei claimed U.S. skater Cathy Turner had stolen victory by grabbing her leg and throwing her off balance.

China filed an official protest and Zhang expressed her rage by storming off the medal podium, ripping the silver medal from her neck and hurling her bouquet to the ground.

The People's Daily said the incident was a clear indication that "some countries" were unable to stomach the fact that China was now a competitor.

"Certain foreigners have deep prejudices against Chinese, that is something we frequently feel," the editorial said.

"And this certainly carries

aspects of a colonialist mentality."

"The people all saw a foreign athlete use her arm to impede Chinese athlete Zhang Yanmei and the fact that the judgement on this was unfair."

The People's Daily said foreigners were determined to prevent China from showing its new power not only in sporting events but also in other areas.

"In the opinion of some, China is not even worth mentioning but is poor, backward and uncivilised. Chinese people are weak, shabby, dirty-faced peasants."

"In the big international family, Chinese people can only obey..."

The People's Daily said China was changing fast and getting stronger by the day. "Only a strong, stable and prosperous China can win the respect of the world."

"We are not begging those who hold prejudices against China to change their opinions... (but) will use our strength to prove that China is strong and the Chinese race is admirable. The facts will bear us out."

"The Chinese people are now on the road to prosperity, moving towards a glorious 21st century," it said.

"This might make you happy, or it might make you unhappy, but none of you can stop it."

## World Cup? Now what sport is that?

NEW YORK (R) — America's enthusiasm for soccer is growing ahead of the World Cup but most people still know little about it and care even less.

That at least is the conclusion of an opinion poll conducted in early February and published this week which brought to light the following nuggets:

— 25 per cent of Americans, a higher proportion of men than women, know the World Cup is about soccer.

— 20 per cent of Americans know that the 24-nation tournament will be played in the United States.

— 18 per cent know the finals are in 1994.

— 62 per cent are not interested in attending matches. The Harris poll claimed an

error margin of three per cent with figures for age, sex, race, education and number of adults per household weighed into the findings.

The pollsters, who surveyed 1,252 adults by telephone nationwide across the United States, concluded that interest in the world's most popular sport was increasing but "most people still know almost nothing about it."

Sixty per cent of those polled said they had heard of the World Cup. Far fewer knew what it was.

The last poll in October 1993 found 21 per cent knew what sport was involved and just 13 per cent replied that it would be played in the United States.

Only 11 per cent then knew the finals were in 1994. For a event, the results may

seem striking.

After all, asking questions in Italy before the 1990 finals along the lines of "have you ever heard of an event called the World Cup?" might have indicated insanity.

In soccer mad Brazil, regular victims of mass World Cup fever, such a questioner would meet disbelief.

In the United States, blank faces are more likely.

"This isn't Brazil," said World Cup 1994 Press Officer Jim Trecker, putting his case across succinctly.

I think that, in spite of the way they have chosen to present these numbers, they are very, very positive," he added pointing out that 20 per cent of the 250 million inhabitants of America was an enormous number of people.

The World Cup kicks off in Chicago June 17 after a glittering ceremony involving such showbiz stars as singer Liza Minnelli. It ends in Los Angeles July 17.

Humphrey Taylor, president of Louis Harris and Associates Inc, who carried out the poll was disappointed.

"I was not really surprised," he said. "At least things are improving but it would not surprise me if when the World Cup has started many Americans are not particularly interested."

"It doesn't fit in with television advertising at all," he added. "Soccer doesn't stop for 45 minutes."

## Christie sets European indoor 60m record

KARLSRUHE, Germany (R) — Olympic and world 100 metre champion Linford Christie of Britain ran 60 metres in 6.48 seconds to set a new European indoor record Tuesday.

Christie shaved three hundredths of a second off the mark he had previously shared with three other sprinters.

"For once everything worked out fine from the start," said Christie who beat Canadian Bruny Surin into second place by two hundredths of a second.

Kenyan Paul Ereng ran the fastest indoor time of the year in the 800 metres in one minute 46.19 seconds.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH  
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#### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A52 ♠J52 ♠A7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?  
A.—This one is right out of the textbook. You have a balanced, minimum opening bid with only three-card support for partner's suit and stoppers in the unbid suits. Bid one no trump.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠KQ107643 ♠Q975 ♠Void ♠93  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 NT Pass

What do you bid now?  
A.—This hand could deliver anywhere from 10 to 13 tricks, depending on partner's holding. For the moment, you need no more than bid three spades, leaving the partnership with the maximum amount of room for exploration. No, that's not a weak bid—with nothing but long spades, you would either pass two no trump or bid four spades.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠10543 ♠J52 ♠J ♠AQJ102  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?  
A.—You certainly want to be in game, but because of your unbalanced shape the had could play better in spades, should partner have four cards or more in the suit. The way to find out is to use the Stayman Convention. Bid two clubs, which asks partner to show a four-card major.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AKQ82 ♠A72 ♠AQ105 ♠7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?  
A.—Two diamonds weakly understate the value of your hand and a jump to three diamonds shows a more distributional holding. The correct way to describe this powerhouse is to reopen the auction with a double. That's for takeout, but partner is allowed to convert to penalties by passing.

Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠J1042 ♠K ♠1054 ♠J8743  
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?  
A.—Reverse the spade and heart holdings and we would probably raise to two clubs. Here, however, we would opt for one spade, both for its preemptive value which makes it more difficult for the opponents to enter the auction and because, if partner has a good hand and spade fit, even game is possible. The hand should play well if partner raises and we do have the safety factor of being able to retreat to clubs.

Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠762 ♠K105 ♠832 ♠A985  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?  
A.—When you hold a working ace and king and partner has reversed, you have a very useful hand. In the modern style, the reverse is a one-round force and the only sign-off here is two no trump. Since partner is marked with five diamonds, we would take an encouraging preference to three diamonds.

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### VACANCY

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Applicants must have a university degree in liberal arts, education or a relevant field; must have fluent English and Arabic. Must have two years experience and a good working knowledge of the Jordanian political, economic, social, artistic and educational structure. Administrative ability to carry out detailed cultural programs, drafting and word processing required. Designing publications and/or desk top publishing experience desirable.  
Qualified applicants should submit an application (available at Embassy gate) to the Personnel Officer prior to March 17, 1994.

### PASSPORT LOST

Indian passport, issued to Hakam Singh S/Gurdial Singh, (No. 470583) has been lost in the Wadi Haddad area. Finders please contact the Indian Embassy or the nearest police station.

### FOR LADIES ONLY AL DALAL

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TODAY	Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Cinema	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema	Tel.: 675571	Cinema	Tel.: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
	THELMA AND LOUISE		ROUND TRIP TO HEAVEN		CONCORD '1' FILOFAX		Opening Soon A political comedy		presents a play entitled: Al Iim Nuron		Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents	
	Shows: 12:30, 3, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '2' PASSENGER				A popular political comedy. Actors: Abber Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians.		Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play)	
					Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30				Every night at 8:15. Tickets are sold all day.		daily at 9:15 p.m.	
					Arabic play "Hi America" at 8:30				Coming soon: The next play		Theatre is closed Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays	



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Sudan steps up blasphemy campaign

GENEVA (AP) — Sudan stepped up charges of blasphemy against a U.N. human rights investigator Wednesday. In a speech to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Sudanese Justice Minister Abdul Aziz Shiddo said parts of a report by Gaspar Biro were "satanic" and represented a "vicious attack against the Islamic faith," master-minded by the United States. Strained by weeks of veiled threats and intimidation, Mr. Biro said he stood by his conclusions that provisions in Sudan's criminal code on the death penalty, floggings and amputations, based on Islamic law, violated international conventions to which Sudan is party. Some U.N. diplomats say the campaign against Mr. Biro, a young Hungarian lawyer, is even worse than Iran's witch hunt of British author Salman Rushdie because it is directed against a U.N.-appointed investigator.

## Sudan bombs villages — aid workers

NAIROBI (R) — A Sudanese government aircraft dropped a string of bombs on rebel-held villages in the south of the country, killing a 12-year-old girl, United Nations workers said Wednesday. An Antonov aircraft dropped eight bombs in and around the key Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) held village of Nimule on the frontier with Uganda on Tuesday, the officials said. The girl was killed in the air raid, the first against the village since 1990. The Antonov also dropped 10 bombs around a refugee camp in Aswa, north of Nimule. Three people were seriously injured but the full extent of casualties was not immediately known, aid workers said.

## U.N. sends food to hungry Afghans

KABUL (AP) — The United Nations on Wednesday sent 90 tonnes of badly needed food on the road to Kabul, its first attempt to deliver supplies since a major battle erupted two months ago. Meanwhile, renewed fighting broke out Wednesday as President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces traded tank and rocket fire with its rivals in the crumbling capital. A convoy of six food trucks left neighbouring Pakistan on Wednesday and is scheduled to arrive in Kabul on Thursday morning, according to aid groups. The president's forces control most of the city, but renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar holds the outskirts and has imposed a blockade on the main highway leading into Kabul. (see page 2)

## Police dig up bodies from British garden

GLOUCESTER, England (R) — Three bodies, all of them female, have been unearthed in the garden of a man charged with killing his 16-year-old daughter, police said Wednesday. They began digging in the garden of the terraced house in the central English city of Gloucester last Thursday. On Sunday they unearthed remains believed to be of Heather West, who disappeared seven years ago when she was 16. Frederick West, 52, a builder who according to press reports has at least 10 children, was charged with her murder and is in custody. Two more bodies were found on Tuesday and identified on Wednesday as those of a woman in her late 20s and a girl in her late teens. Detective Superintendent John Bennett, who is heading a team of 30 police, said digging would continue until they were satisfied there were no more bodies in the garden.

## Religious link seen to Kuwait cinema bomb

KUWAIT (R) — A bomb explosion at a Kuwaiti cinema may have been a religious protest against the showing of films during the Holy Month of Ramadan, the manager was quoted on Wednesday as saying. "The blast was probably a religious warning due to the Holy Month of Ramadan," Youssef Al Halabi, manager of the Kuwait National Cinema Company, which owns all cinema halls in Kuwait, was quoted as saying by the English-language Arab Times. "Last year we received a threat at the same time but it was not carried out," he was quoted as saying. The blast on Monday at the Granada Cinema in the Khaitan area wounded a security guard, Mr. Halabi said. The Interior Ministry said two people were injured in the blast.

## Attacks on Copts raise fears

ASSIUT (AP) — Three Christians were shot or stabbed to death in separate incidents in the Assiut area, raising fears of renewed sectarian violence in the Muslim militant stronghold. Police said Wednesday two Christians, one a 19-year-old student, were fatally shot in Dairut, 40 kilometres north of Assiut. Suspected extremist gunmen in the same town wounded Ahmad Mohammad Nagi, a Muslim. Tuesday night for collaborating with police, witnesses said. And in Assiut, 120 kilometres south of Cairo, the body of a Christian hairdresser, Nabil Berti Zachary, was found in his apartment Wednesday. He had been stabbed to death a day earlier.

## Palestinian centre disputes army version of killing

By Michael Jansen  
Special to the Jordan Times

LIMASSOL — The Palestine Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC), based in East Jerusalem, disputes the Israeli army's official figure of 30 Palestinians killed in the mosque at Hebron last Friday.

Dr. Jan Abu Shakra, director of the centre, in Cyprus for a Middle East Council of Churches Conference on Palestine, told this correspondent that the PHRIC had "confirmed that at least 50" Palestinians had been shot down either "in the mosque or its courtyard." The centre has compiled a list of the names of the 50 mosque fatalities.

Dr. Abu Shakra also revealed for the first time that field workers from the PHRIC had interviewed an eyewitness to the massacre who insisted that a "second person had been involved," confirming accounts given by others in the mosque that morning.

This witness, she said, "described the second gunman" and said he had been dressed in "civilian clothes."

According to Dr. Abu Shakra, this gunman "got away before (the settler) held responsible for the slaughter, Dr. Baruch Goldstein" was killed.

The centre's initial esti-

mate was that 50 to 60 Palestinian worshippers had been killed in the sanctuary and more than 300 injured. Its field staff, she said, has had great difficulty compiling a complete list because of the curfew imposed by Israel.

Some Palestinians wounded within the mosque compound — the Cave of the Patriarchs and the courtyard — testified that they had been shot by the Israeli soldiers on duty at the site, confirming a report given to the Israeli and international media by Alon Ben David, Israel television's military correspondent, who said that Israeli troops had fired on Palestinians when the troops saw an Israeli in army uniform, i.e. Goldstein, being attacked by Palestinian worshippers who were trying to defend themselves against him.

The PHRIC also said that eight Palestinians were killed Friday after the mosque massacre — two in Hebron outside Al Ahi Hospital, one in Bethlehem, three in Gaza, one in Jerusalem and one in Nablus. This figure contradicts the Israeli army figure of five killed — two in Hebron and three in Gaza.

The Centre reported that five Palestinians were killed Saturday by the Israeli army, three on Sunday and two on Monday.

## Serbs cautiously greet Muslim-Croat agreement

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs gave a cautious endorsement on Wednesday to an agreement by their Muslim and Croat civil war foes to unite and seek a loose confederation with Croatia.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, welcomed the U.S.-sponsored pact but warned: "It helps them to put pressure on Serbs and to gain more territory from them, we are against it."

Bosnia's Muslim Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and Croat negotiators struck a deal on Tuesday as a ceasefire between their warring forces continued to hold in central Bosnia.

While diplomats cautioned there was still a long way to go before the 23-month civil war was over, it boosted hopes of peace after the imposition of a separate ceasefire in Sarajevo and a Serb agreement to allow an airlift of humanitarian aid through the Muslim-held airport at Tuzla.

The developments followed a move to centre stage by Russia and the United States in diplomatic efforts to end the fighting which have so far been spearheaded by the United Nations and the European Union.

Mr. Karadzic, speaking in Moscow, which has swung its support openly behind the Bosnian Serb Slav brethren, voiced alarm at what he saw as U.S. attempts to supplant the United Nations in peace

efforts. "I do not think that one country should monopolise (this process)," he told reporters.

The United States pressed the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) into threatening air strikes this month if the Serbs did not neutralise their siege guns around Sarajevo.

U.S. aircraft, enforcing a U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia, shot down four Serb warplanes which bombed Muslim targets in central Bosnia on Monday in the West's first military intervention in the conflict.

Washington hopes the Muslim-Croat accord will increase pressure on the Serbs to reach an overall settlement.

Despite the peace concessions, Bosnian Serbs have intensified attacks on Muslim regions and denied passage for a relief convoy, U.N. officials said.

Bosnian Serb artillery continued to hammer Maglaj, a Muslim enclave in northern Bosnia, where 19,000 refugees have been under siege for most of the past year.

Serbs denied permission for a humanitarian aid convoy to travel there Wednesday, said Bill Aikman, the U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo.

U.N. officials reported anti-tank rounds landed near Sarajevo's downtown Jewish

cemetery Wednesday morning, but there was no word on who fired them.

There also were reports of a stepped-up offensive against Bihac in Bosnia's northwest corner, where Serbs support a small Muslim faction that has declared autonomy from the Sarajevo government.

The offensives contrast starkly to a truce that has held for three weeks in Serb-besieged Sarajevo, and to Tuesday's agreement by Mr. Karadzic to allow the reopening of an airport at Tuzla, northern Bosnia, for U.N. aid flights.

U.N. special envoy Thorvald Stoltenberg cut short a visit to Italy Wednesday to return to Geneva for immediate talks with European Union mediator Lord Owen on prospects for a peace deal in Bosnia.

He told reporters he was encouraged by the Muslim-Croat agreement to form a federation in the republic and by the Bosnian Serb decision to allow Tuzla airport to open.

"These are both developments that could be important for future negotiations for a peace agreement," Mr. Stoltenberg told a news conference after meeting Pope John Paul and Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta.

"This should provide for an atmosphere that could give results."

## Christopher pledges more active U.S. role in peace talks

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel Tuesday to quickly resume their peace negotiations and said the United States would assume "an active role" in the talks.

Delaying implementation of the Declaration of Principles the two parties signed last September at the White House "will maintain a vacuum that will be filled by extremists from both sides," Mr. Christopher warned.

"We certainly should not let the horrendous incident in Hebron lead to the triumph of violent extremism," he said of the Feb. 25 massacre of more than 40 Muslims by a militant Israeli settler.

Testifying in support of the administration's fiscal 1995 budget request before the House Appropriations subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Mr. Christopher pointed out that the budget seeks \$5,200 million to support the Middle East peace process, of which \$5,100 million will go to Egypt and Israel. The funds are designed "to build on last year's historic breakthrough for peace," he said.

"As an administration, we are committed to seeing the enemies of peace fail," Mr. Christopher told the subcommittee. "We've moved quickly to try to avoid the breakdown of these talks."

He said Israeli Prime Minis-

ter Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat have accepted President Clinton's invitation to move the Israeli-PLO talks to Washington, D.C., as soon as possible. Mr. Christopher praised both the Israeli and PLO leaders. "I do think the parties will return to Washington to renew the discussions," he said, noting he had talked recently by telephone with both.

"We will work actively with the parties here in Washington when the negotiations resume, helping them to find a negotiated outcome and then to begin implementation," the secretary said. "The active role we contemplate would be one where we would act as an intermediary, offering ideas, suggesting solutions, helping the parties move over the last few issues."

Israel and the PLO probably have resolved 95 per cent of the issues that were opened by their Declaration of Principles, Mr. Christopher said, adding "the last five per cent sometimes is the hardest five per cent."

Negotiators from Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, who were conducting bilateral talks with the Israelis in Washington left for home over the weekend even though they were scheduled to complete their current round Wednesday.

"They felt that the environment simply was not propitious for continuing negotiations," Mr. Christopher explained.

"The negotiations, if they had continued, would have gotten caught up in the emotion of the moment."

The secretary said the other Arab governments have made it clear to him that their departure was "a temporary pause, and not a retreat from the negotiations. So I would expect them to be back when the Palestinians are ready to resume negotiations," he said.

While "slow but steady progress" is being made on the other bilateral tracks, Mr. Christopher said if the Palestinians and Israeli could agree on the implementation of their Declaration of Principles.

Outlining what is needed to bring about a resumption of the PLO-Israeli negotiations, the secretary emphasised that "Palestinians must feel secure, and we believe that Israel has taken important steps in this direction by acting to contain the Israeli extremists," he pointed to measures announced by the Israeli government that create "important precedents and should lead to increased security for the Palestinians."

"But the Palestinians need more than that," Mr. Christopher said. "They need to see that they can achieve a different future. They need to see that realities are changing on the ground. That can only be achieved through the implementation of the Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles."

## KGB set aside \$2.7 million for CIA officer 'spy' — prosecutors

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — Payoffs totaling \$2.7 million, Swiss accounts and the promise of a summer cottage in Russia were Aldrich Ames' alleged rewards for double espionage, government prosecutors say.

Details of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer's alleged working arrangement with his Russian masters were laid out in a letter prosecutors say investigators discovered at the Ames' home and other evidence introduced Tuesday at a bail hearing for Ames and his Colombian-born wife, Maria del Rosario Casas Ames.

U.S. Magistrate Barry R. Poretz ruled there was sufficient evidence for a grand jury to pursue the espionage case.

Mr. Poretz ordered the Ames' held without bond, rejecting attorney's assurances that the couple would not flee the country. He said Mr. Ames, if freed, would pose a danger to the United States because he possessed valuable intelligence information.

The Ames' are charged with conspiracy to commit espionage. They are accused of selling secrets to the Soviet Union and then Russia for eight years. If convicted, they could face a maximum penalty of life in prison.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Wednesday it would take months to determine what, if any, damage Mr. Ames did to the national security.

"I think it's substantial," he said.

The purported letter from the KGB introduced at Tuesday's hearing begins "Dear friend," and states that Mr. Ames' "balance sheet" showed \$2,705,000 had been appropriated to him as of May 1, 1989.

"As of that date, Mr. Ames had received \$1.9 million of the total, according to the accounting statement, which also indicated some funds had been used to buy bonds."

One way the Russians showed their appreciation was by sending him photos of a piece of riverfront property where he could build a "dacha" or summer home, the government said. The photos were presented as evidence, along with a note telling Mr. Ames the land "now belongs to you forever."

At the hearing, assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Hultkower portrayed Mr. Ames as "very supportive" of her husband's alleged spying, even to the point of urging him to be more imaginative in his dealings with the KGB, the Russian intelli-

gence service.

"Mrs. Ames knew she was riding on a Russian gravy train, and she jumped on it with both feet," said Mr. Hultkower.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent Leslie Wiser told of incriminating documents found in the Ames' home in suburban Virginia and in his office.

Among materials in Mr. Ames' office that were unrelated to his current counter-narcotics work was a description of methods the Russians employ to foil U.S. efforts to track Russian nuclear submarines," Mr. Wiser said.

In addition to the financial statement, Mr. Wiser said, FBI agents found at the Ames' home a nine-page 1989 letter containing a list of instructions from the KGB.

## Lebanese held in attack on Brooklyn Bridge van

NEW YORK (AP) — Police arrested a Lebanese man Wednesday in connection with a bloody attack on a van full of Jewish students on the Brooklyn Bridge, a police official said.

The unidentified suspect had not been formally charged, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. But he said police believe the man was the armed motorist who fired on the van Tuesday morning, wounding four students, one fatally.

The official said the Lebanese national was arrested early Wednesday morning in Brooklyn, and a car was recovered. Police also were questioning another man who might have helped plan the shooting or been otherwise involved, he added.

The official declined to comment further.

One victim, Aaron Halberstam, 20, was declared brain dead Wednesday.

Halberstam "meets the clinical criteria for brain dead, that means that legally he is dead," said Dr. Allen Hirschfeld. "But we are continuing life support as a result of the family's wishes."

Halberstam was in the van carrying young Hasidic men from a hospital visit Tuesday when a gunman repeatedly fired at them as they entered the Brooklyn Bridge.

Using two semi-automatic pistols, the gunman pursued the van half the length of the bridge, firing at least nine bullets at three separate points

before driving away. At one of those points, he blew out his own window.

The gunfire left another rabbinical student critically wounded.

St. Vincent's Hospital said Nachum Sosonkin, 18, who underwent surgery for a head shot that entered below his right ear, was unlikely to survive. Two others survived with lesser injuries.

The shooting sent city officials scrambling to calm fears that the incident was related to Middle East tensions. The official said Tuesday there was "no piece of information, hard evidence" linking the incident to the mosque massacre in the Israeli-occupied West Bank last Friday.

But "obviously that's something you can't exclude, and the speculation is there," he said.

The white van had not been marked, but its occupants had the black hats and sidecurls typical of Hasidic Jews.

Rabbi Shmuel Batman, a Lubavitcher leader, drew his own conclusions.

"It seems to us this was an act of terrorism," he said.

The Brooklyn Bridge was closed for hours after the shooting. Security was tightened at sensitive locations.

The attack occurred as hundreds of Lubavitchers travelled from Brooklyn to Manhattan for the funeral of a prominent rabbi, Menachem Schneerson, underwent cataract surgery.

## Clinton appeals to Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

against settlers in the aftermath of the mosque attack. The arrival of Dr. Shaath to Washington does not mean the negotiations will open right away, said administration sources, who insisted on anonymity. Mr. Arafat wants to convey to Mr. Christopher first what he thinks should be taken up in the negotiations.

Mr. Christopher has talked to Mr. Arafat several times on the telephone since the mosque attack and has been assured that in the long run, at least, the PLO wants to keep negotiating. (see page 10)

Israeli and PLO officials earlier Wednesday criticised President Clinton's response to the crisis triggered by the Hebron massacre, saying the Americans should play a more active, coordinated role in restarting Israeli-PLO talks. Mr.

Rabin complained that a lack of coordination between the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the Mideast peace process, could complicate efforts to revive the suspended negotiations.

"Whenever there's no cooperation in the real meaning between the two co-sponsors, there's a possibility of an attempt to exploit it by some of the partners for the negotiations," Mr. Rabin told a foreign press association luncheon.

Mr. Rabin noted that Igor Ivanov, Russia's deputy foreign minister, was arriving from Tunis and that without U.S.-Russian coordination "it will add to the difficulties to resume the talks."

Mr. Ivanov, who met with Mr. Arafat, immediately endorsed the idea of international protection for Palestinians in the occupied areas.

## Government defends RJ

(Continued from page 1)

Following the sale, the airline opted to lease aircraft, which will become RJ property at the expiry of the 12-year lease period.

Mr. Halasa said the airline had suffered a loss of JD 143 million since its establishment in 1963, but the main losses were incurred as a result of the devaluation of the dinar in 1988/89 and 1990-91 Gulf crisis. It has spent JD 46 million servicing its debts.

Furthermore, he said, the JD 20 million capital was not compatible with the size of the airline's operations and did not allow it to raise funds on easy terms.

Mr. Halasa put the total assets of the airline at JD 534 million. The airline has a fleet of 16 planes — four Airbus-310s, three Airbus-320s, five TriStars, two Boeing 727s and three Boeing 707s — and is expected to take delivery of another Airbus-320 in June.

The carrier employs 5,250 people, 260 of them non-Jordanian. Mr. Halasa said, noting that the jobs that the airline offers are very important for Jordan. In addition, he said, RJ also makes use of many other sectors of the national economy and any hasty decision on its future would have a chain impact on these sectors.

RJ has several lucrative routes to the Far East and the bulk of its passenger traffic originates in Europe and the U.S. Its net operational profit in 1993 was JD 2 million.

Mr. Halasa noted that a government-appointed committee was supervising a study by a foreign consultancy firm, KPMG Peat of London, on the best mechanism to privatise the airline. The study is expected to be completed by next month.

The minister said that reducing the debt burden of the airline was essential before privatisation. He said the government, which lists the outstanding lease payments on RJ aircraft as part of Jordan's foreign

debt, also has responsibility to bail out the airline.

The government-appointed committee, in addition to supervising the KPMG Peat study, is also considering various other aspects of privatising the airline such as equity structure, potential foreign capital investment, time-tables for the process, etc.

A study conducted by an international consultant recommended in 1992 that the airline be privatised in two phases: raising the capital of the airline and the government and local creditors of the airline given equity in proportion to the debts, and inviting foreign investors in the second phase when the first-phase equity holders could sell their holdings under a plan which will ensure a controlling interest remaining in Jordanian hands.

The minister's report was presented in response to a motion signed by 16 deputies for a "general discussion" on the airline's status.

Some deputies who were not party to the motion said they failed to find the logic in debating the issue while the government was already implementing a plan to address the problems of the airline.

Wednesday's debate included a tug-of-war between deputies who favoured an immediate floor discussion on the minister's report and those who wanted experts to study it before a full debate.

Islamist deputies are traditionally at odds with the airline over the serving of alcohol on board and Western-style clothing of cabin crews, including female hostesses, among other things.

Airline executives argue that parliamentarians should first familiarise themselves with the basics of operating an airline and national carrier in all its general dimensions before passing judgement on its viability and status.

"Without such familiarisation, it will be like a blind man judging the size of an elephant by its trunk," commented a senior executive.

## COLUMN

## Welsh unhappy with Charles at start of tour

CARDIFF (R) — More than half of Welsh people are unhappy with Prince Charles, titular head of their principality, an opinion poll showed Tuesday. It was published as Prince Charles, 45-year-old heir to the British throne, began a tour of Wales hoping to win back the loyalty of his future subjects. A British Broadcasting Corporation poll issued on the national day of Wales' patron saint St David showed most Welsh people considered Prince Charles, who carries the title Prince of Wales, had represented them badly. It said 52 per cent of people questioned were un-

happy with his performance as ceremonial head of the principality, with only 40 per cent satisfied. Eight per cent were "don't knows." Prince Charles' trip to the Welsh capital Cardiff opens a season of celebrations to mark 25 years since he was sworn in as Prince of Wales by his mother Queen Elizabeth in a lavish ceremony at Caernarfon Castle in the north of the principality. Royal officials hope the tour will polish an image battered by the break-up with his glamorous wife Princess Diana. Prince Charles, hoping to return to centre-stage and quash doubts over his future sparked by rumours of an affair with an army wife, plans to visit all parts of Wales before hosting three days of festivities in Caernarfon in July to mark his jubilee.

Solzhentzys bids farewell to vermonters

CAVENDISH, Vermont (AP) — Exiled Russian writer Alexander Solzhentzysyn made a rare public appearance to bid farewell to townspeople in the rural community he has lived since 1976 ahead of his return to Russia. "Exile is always difficult, and yet I could not imagine a better place to live and wait and wait and wait for my return home than Cavendish, Vermont," he told a town meeting Monday in only his third appearance at a public event in the town. The Nobel Prize-winning author, whose critique of the Soviet system led to his expulsion after being charged with treason in 1974, said he would return to Russia with his wife Natalya but that his sons would remain in Vermont.

Bokassa's son ordered to pay child support

CHAMBERY, France (AFP) — A son of former Central African Republic Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa was ordered jailed for a year by a court here for not paying child support, judicial sources said Tuesday. An arrest warrant was issued for Georges Bokassa, 44, who lives in one of his father's chateaux at Mezy-Sur-Seine, in the Paris area. The court, sitting here on Feb. 21, heard a complaint from his ex-wife, Evelyn Duriex, that Georges Bokassa, appointed defence minister by his father in 1977, had failed to pay support for the couple's three children, aged 13, 17 and 18. Mr. Bokassa, who did not appear at the hearing, said his only income was from French social security. The ex-emperor's son, who was expelled from Central Africa in 1978, will be jailed if he does not appear in court to contest the case.

There's mice in the rice, says Japan politician

TOKYO (R) — The Japanese may eat poisonous blowfish and many other weird and wonderful things but they draw the line at mice with their rice. A Communist politician has done the cause of market opening and internationalisation no good at all by claiming Japanese millers recently found dead mice and cockroaches in a pioneering shipment of imported Thai rice. "These things don't become public because people tend to panic, but it's happening all over Japan," said Yuko Takasaki, a member of the upper house of parliament. Apart from mice and cockroaches, she showed a Reuters reporter what she said were bird bones, rubber bands, strings, cigarette butts, pebbles and chalk found in Thai rice distributed to grain milling factories.

Columbia blast

CAPE CANAVERAL — After a one-day wait, Columbia thundered into space Friday with a two-week mission that could break the shuttle record. Columbia, the 25th shuttle, lifted off at 12:53 GMT, right on the nose for the 28th day of the shuttle's 28th mission. The shuttle was scheduled to spend 28 days in orbit, just the longest shuttle mission yet. Columbia last flew in 1983, just one extra day beyond the record.

Indian police a Pakistani agent

NEW DELHI — A Pakistani agent was arrested by Indian police in a case of terrorism. The agent was arrested on Thursday and is being held in custody. The case is related to the recent explosion in the Indian capital.

German h

ASSIUT (AP) — Three Christians were shot or stabbed to death in separate incidents in the Assiut area, raising fears of renewed sectarian violence in the Muslim militant stronghold.

Assiut, 40 kilometres north of Assiut. Suspected extremist gunmen in the same town wounded Ahmad Mohammad Nagi, a Muslim. Tuesday night for collaborating with police, witnesses said. And in Assiut, 120 kilometres south of Cairo, the body of a Christian hairdresser, Nabil Berti Zachary, was found in his apartment Wednesday. He had been stabbed to death a day earlier.

Attacks on Copts raise fears

Assiut (AP) — Three Christians were shot or stabbed to death in separate incidents in the Assiut area, raising fears of renewed sectarian violence in the Muslim militant stronghold. Police said Wednesday two Christians, one a 19-year-old student, were fatally shot in Dairut, 40 kilometres north of Assiut. Suspected extremist gunmen in the same town wounded Ahmad Mohammad Nagi, a Muslim. Tuesday night for collaborating with police, witnesses said. And in Assiut, 120 kilometres south of Cairo, the body of a Christian hairdresser, Nabil Berti Zachary, was found in his apartment Wednesday. He had been stabbed to death a day earlier.

Religious link seen to Kuwait cinema bomb

KUWAIT (R) — A bomb explosion at a Kuwaiti cinema may have been a religious protest against the showing of films during the Holy Month of Ramadan, the manager was quoted on Wednesday as saying. "The blast was probably a religious warning due to the Holy Month of Ramadan," Youssef Al Halabi, manager of the Kuwait National Cinema Company, which owns all cinema halls in Kuwait, was quoted as saying by the English-language Arab Times. "Last year we received a threat at the same time but it was not carried out," he was quoted as saying. The blast on Monday at the Granada Cinema in the Khaitan area wounded a security guard, Mr. Halabi said. The Interior Ministry said two people were injured in the blast.

Police dig up bodies from British garden

GLOUCESTER, England (R) — Three bodies, all of them female, have been unearthed in the garden of a man charged with killing his 16-year-old daughter, police said Wednesday. They began digging in the garden of the terraced house in the central English city of Gloucester last Thursday. On Sunday they unearthed remains believed to be of Heather West, who disappeared seven years ago when she was 16. Frederick West, 52, a builder who according to press reports has at least 10 children, was charged with her murder and is in custody. Two more bodies were found on Tuesday and identified on Wednesday as those of a woman in her late 20s and a girl in her late teens. Detective Superintendent John Bennett, who is heading a team of 30 police, said digging would continue until they were satisfied there were no more bodies in the garden.

Sudan bombs villages — aid workers

NAIROBI (R) — A Sudanese government aircraft dropped a string of bombs on rebel-held villages in the south of the country, killing a 12-year-old girl, United Nations workers said Wednesday. An Antonov aircraft dropped eight bombs in and around the key Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) held village of Nimule on the frontier with Uganda on Tuesday, the officials said